

Disability Now

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Done it! Irish shot put competitor Sean O'Grady at the World Wheelchair Games. See pages 14-15 GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Thousands set to gain from pay-out

Thousands of disabled women pensioners are missing out on benefit because the Department of Social Security cannot trace them.

The women are married, over 60 and received severe disablement allowance until they claimed their retirement pension.

They have been losing up to £11.10 a week since an addition to the payment was introduced in December last year and should get up to £400 in back-dated payments plus £11.10 for life.

The DSS admits it cannot identify the women from its records and is advising them to contact their local benefits office.

The allowance is paid to those who have no entitlement to national insurance benefits because they have been unable to work. It began in November 1984, but problems started on 3 December 1990, when the Government introduced an

age-related addition dependent on the age at which the person became incapable of work.

Women can get £11.10, £6.90 or £3.65 a week according to whether the disability began before the age of 40, 50 or 60. It is paid on top of the basic weekly allowance of £31.25.

The DSS contacted everyone claiming the severe disablement allowance on 3 December 1990, and paid them the addition.

But several thousand older women missed out because they had claimed their retirement pension and given up the allowance before 3 December.

The DSS did not realise until earlier this year that they still retained an underlying entitlement and should have received the addition from 13 December 1990.

Girl shows council how

A letter from nine-year-old Caroline Squires to her MP, Tom Pendry, has persuaded Tameside Council to launch a major initiative to help local disabled people.

Caroline, from Stalybridge, asked for Mr Pendry's help in getting 19 kerbs lowered, so that she could take her younger brother Jonathon, a wheelchair user, for walks round the town.

Her letter, which included detailed maps and drawings, so impressed the MP and councillors that Caroline's request has become part of the borough's latest maintenance programme.

"I was very impressed by Caroline's work," said Mr Pendry. "It was full of details about what needed doing. I was pleased to help her and her brother."

Caroline has been assured the work will soon be completed and that councillors will also take a look at access prob-

lems across the borough.

Tameside Council Leader, Councillor Roy Oldham, appreciated Caroline's efforts. "We are currently looking at all manner of improvements for



Caroline with her work

disabled people. These include kerb lowering, better parking facilities and improved access to council-owned buildings."

Naidex criticised

A trade association says there is "widespread dissatisfaction" with Naidex and has called on the organisers to make the exhibition more attractive. But Naidex rejects the criticisms.

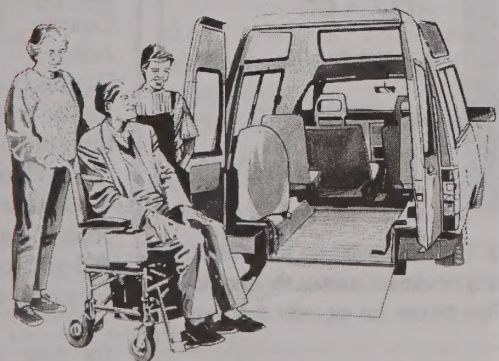
The British Surgical Trades Association (BSTA), with 190 manufacturer members, wants the exhibition to be held annually at the Birmingham NEC over four days, Thursday to Saturday; have "a higher profile" and be opened by a famous person, such as "a lesser Royal"; have better international facilities, an exhibitors committee to discuss promotions, free car parking and a "reasonable" entry fee of £1.

BSTA director Ian Sherwood has sent a letter and questionnaire to a cross-section of Naidex exhibitors asking them if they are satisfied. As DN went to press, the result was not yet known.

Mr Sherwood's letter claims: "On several occasions the

Continued on page 5

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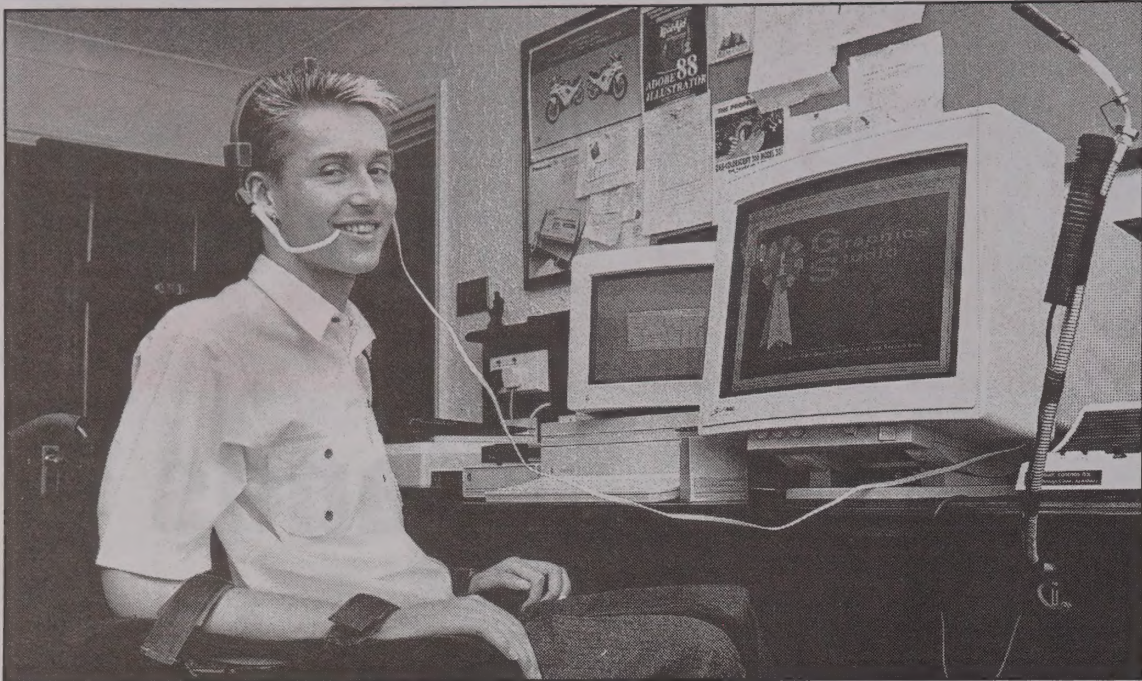
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Simon Hawkrige, 25, from Gravesend, launched his own business, the First Class Graphics Studio, last month. When he was 20 and working as a trainee building surveyor, a car crash left him paralysed from the neck down. After his graphic designs for friends and local charities went down well, he decided to set up his own business. With help from the Gravesham Enterprise Agency, the Employment Department, the Corporation of London, the Kent Foundation and the Shell UK Live Wire scheme, he has converted his garage into a high-tech studio complete with breath control computer. Tel: (0474) 536555 after 2pm. JACKY CHAPMAN

Labour promises children a new deal

Children with special needs will get a better deal under a Labour government, the party claimed last month.

Plans in *Every Child a Special Child*, Labour's consultative proposals for special needs, include:

- * imposing a time limit of six months for getting a statement of special educational needs. (The Department of Education and Science says statements should already be available within six months, but many parents have complained of delays, sometimes stretching to a year, see *DN*, September 1990.)

- * giving parents independent expert advice

- * setting up a special needs group within the party's proposed Education Standards Commission

- * promoting research into how disabled children learn

- * encouraging more disabled people to become teachers.

Under Labour, say the plans, the duty to provide services such as speech therapy and physiotherapy would remain with health authorities.

This has disappointed disability groups such as Mencap and The Spastics Society. They argue that allowing these ser-

vices to remain "health matters" makes it easier for education authorities to get out of providing them (*DN*, June).

MP Hilary Armstrong, spokesperson for special education, made no specific promises about extra resources except to say: "Special needs will benefit from the additional attention the party is going to give to education in the next decade."

Every Child a Special Child, free, the Information Office, the Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT. Responses to Larry Whitty, at the same address.

RNIB to shed jobs

The Royal National Institute for the Blind is to shed between 20 and 50 jobs from its fundraising side.

In a statement last month, it said: "New sources of fundraising identified during the Looking Glass Appeal, in particular from the corporate sector, will be integrated into existing community-based fundraising and greater use will be made of volunteers."

The RNIB is the latest charity to suffer the effects of the

recession and the resulting drop in donations (*DN*, August). Its intention to concentrate more effort on corporate fundraising reflects the latest trend in giving, revealed by a Charities Aid Foundation survey in July.

This showed that donations from the top UK firms rose from £104.4 million in 1988-89 to £116.2 million in 1989-90. But the average amount given by individuals fell from £1.97 a month to £1.28.

More cash for Social Fund

The Social Fund, which makes grants and loans to disabled people on a low income, has been topped up by £40 million to £268 million in response to rising unemployment.

Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott said last month:

"As part of our monitoring of the Fund we have been watching carefully the way in which the Fund has been able to respond to a variety of pressures, not least those of the current temporary trend of rising unemployment."



Thanks to staff fundraising, the West Somerset Steam Railway's "Lorna Doone" carriage now has accessible toilets, tracking for 10 wheelchairs, picture windows and a pair of Ratcliff tail lifts. Runs every day till the end of September, closed Monday and Friday during October, tel: (0643) 704996.

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DN9/91

Try this out

A video telling deaf and hearing-impaired people about libraries has won a national award.

Financed by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and produced by Warwickshire County Council, *It's Your Library - Try It!* won the TC Farries/Library Association Public Relations Award for the best audio-visual presentation.

Presented by two social workers who are deaf, over 100 copies have been sold, with orders from New Zealand and Japan as well as Britain.

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Lin Berwick, *DN's* telephone counsellor, herself disabled, can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Mondays, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (04024) 77582.



Artists from The Spastics Society's Artists First project unveiled their first commission from the Society at its Wales Regional Office in August. Four community artists joined forces with 50 disabled artists to produce a 162 feet square mosaic and a 30 feet long mural.

LESLEY SMITH

Fight to save rehab centres begins

A campaign to save 34 Employment Rehabilitation Centres (ERCs) from closure has been launched.

The National Union of Civil and Public Servants (NUCPS) is urging people to write to their MPs and councillors to protest about the closures.

The Government intends to axe the centres, 27 of which help people with disabilities find jobs, by 1995.

The ERCs, which assess and train people, are being replaced by nine "centres of excellence".

These will train private agencies and voluntary groups

to do the ERC's work as well as doing some assessment work.

The changes were first outlined last year in the Government's consultative document *Employment and Training for People With Disabilities*.

Leslie Mercer of the NUCPS said: "We want to retain ERCs because we fear private groups and agencies will not be able to provide the same standard of service or level of commitment to disabled people."

RADAR director Bert Massie said: "We object to the proposed closures because we

are not convinced the new service will be an improvement on the ERCs. What we really want is for the ERCs to be retained and improved. The Government talks about having nine centres of excellence, but why not have 34?"

In April, Employment Secretary Michael Howard described the replacement of ERCs as "a major improvement". He said it would help to make services more coherent, professional and effectively managed: "Sources of expertise and commitment in the wider community will be more effectively harnessed."

Amanda gets chair

Amanda Simpson, 12, who was falsely promised a new wheelchair by charity cheats Malaglade Ltd, has been given a new £2,800 one by *Sunday Telegraph* readers.

Four people connected with the company, which used Amanda's name to raise money, were arrested in July (DN, August).

Come to a London lobby

People with learning disabilities are to stage a mass lobby of Parliament on 26 November.

"Let's Make our Voices Heard", expects over 1,000 people to come and meet their MPs and question political parties.

Ian Thorn, public relations officer of the National Federation of Gateway Clubs said:

"This is a tremendous opportunity for a large number of people with learning disabilities to share in the decision making process of Government and also for politicians of all parties to find out more and perhaps realise what a substantial force we are."

Ian Thorn, tel: 071-454 0454.

Student search

Action for Blind People is starting a 16 week pre-work training course on 23 September for 15 visually impaired people in Lancashire.

The course will build people's confidence, teach them job skills, and get them to place at least 10 people in jobs by the end of the project.

Thirty free places are also available on the University of Keele's Certificate in Information Technology course.

Organiser Dr Andrew Billson said in most cases students can be provided with the necessary computing equipment, but they would have to find the money for books, travel and accommodation elsewhere.

Action for Blind People, contact Maria Lightfoot, tel: (0524) 419024, deadline 15 September. Keele University, contact Dr Andrew Billson, tel: (0782) 621111 ext 3781, deadline 20 September.

Disabled Soviets go home with new limbs

Eleven disabled oil and gas workers from the Soviet Union were in the UK last month to receive artificial limbs from the Disablement Services Centre at Medway hospital in Kent.

They had all lost arms or legs working in Bashkiria's oil and gas fields.

Vasily Veryovkin, vice-president of the Russian Oil and Gas Workers' Union, told DN: "When the Russian oil industry found it had small amounts of hard currency available we persuaded our bosses to use it to provide modern artificial limbs for men who had lost limbs in the course of their work."

"We decided to buy British because there are not sufficient materials to make decent artificial limbs in Russia."

Rehabilitation Services Ltd (RSL) made the limbs out of very light thermal plastics and carbon-fibre.

The men are used to wearing heavy iron or wooden limbs. Nil Yalin said: "My new limbs are three or four times lighter

than my old wooden legs."

After thanking the hospital staff, Mr Veryovkin said:

bad. Although some ramps have been built, these are more for the benefit of mothers



DOD MILLER

Waiting to be fitted with their new limbs

"English people are much warmer than we expected and seem to have a very good attitude towards disabled people."

"The Russian attitude is very

pushing prams. No account is taken of the problems disabled people face trying to enter public buildings. It is almost impossible for people with dis-

abilities to enter our restaurants, theatres and cinemas."

Mr Veryovkin said: "There have been improvements recently thanks to perestroika. Benefits have increased but inflation and problems with the Russian economy have sadly removed these advantages."

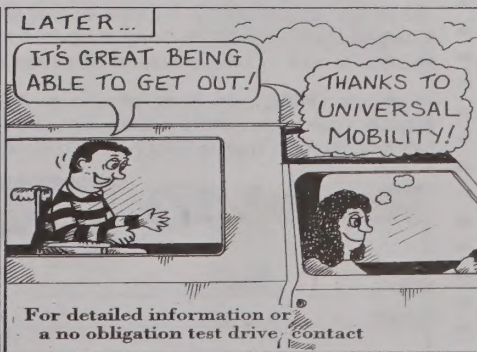
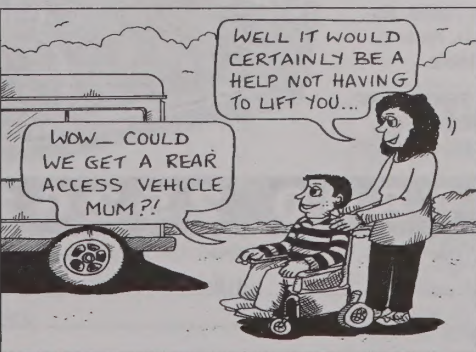
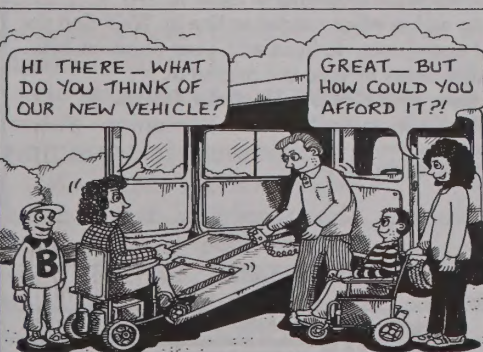
Rim Abdrahman, who comes from Mrakovo, added: "The food shortages have made life hard at times, but it is not just disabled people who are suffering the complications in the Russian economy. Most ordinary people are as well."

The visitors, who had never been out of Russia before, were taken on sightseeing trips to London, but they enjoyed the sea at Eastbourne most.

Maidstone trading consultant Michael Costello, who helped organise the visit, thought perestroika had been the key to it.

"The fact that the money was provided was a very encouraging pointer for the future and we would be more than happy to oblige again."

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IN PARLIAMENT

Child Support Bill: final concessions

Government amendments introduced at the third reading of the Child Support Bill in July will allow a wider definition of who is eligible to apply to the courts for top-up awards to cover the extra costs of caring for a disabled child.

The concessions came after criticism that the original definition was too narrow, would have excluded some children who were genuinely disabled and were inconsistent with the Children Act 1989.

Minister for Disabled People Nicholas Scott said: "I was particularly concerned about two groups: children under the age of five who would be unable to qualify for the mobility component of the disability living allowance and those who are deaf or who cannot speak.

"It will now be possible,

therefore, to apply to the courts to consider top-up awards for any child for whom the disability living allowance is paid, or who is blind, deaf, without speech or substantially and permanently handicapped."

Joan Lestor (Lab) welcomed the amendments because "children not in receipt of benefits will be included."

But she warned that going through the courts may be a



Marjorie Mowlam: concern

double edge sword: "I fear that delays prejudicial to the welfare of children with disabilities will inevitably arise under the proposed maintenance arrangements."

She made a final plea for family courts: "It is now more important than ever that the

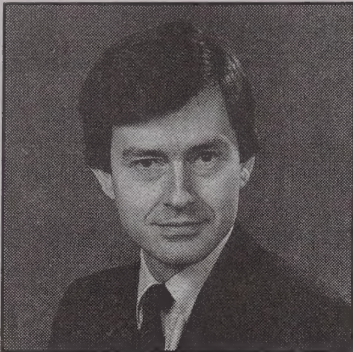
courts are reformed."

The Child Support Bill received royal assent on 25 July.

Deaf children debate

Labour MP Marjorie Mowlam used the BBC1 programme *The Visit* by Desmond Wilcox, to launch a debate about diagnosing deafness in children in July.

The programme was based on the Robinson family who



Stephen Dorrell: agreement

live in her constituency.

"The early diagnosis of deaf children, the prescription of hearing aids, the immediate provision of education and speech training are essential if children with hearing loss are to develop communication skills and not be severely handicapped as a result of deafness," she argued.

She wanted efficient screening, diagnostic and referral services set up and publication of their findings as an essential first step for improving the education of deaf children.

The main cause of hearing problems was glue ear, she said, which will often resolve itself quickly, but if prolonged can cause serious learning difficulties.

Quotes of the month

"About one in three children has glue ear, which is the equivalent of saying that for one in three children listening is experienced as if they have their head in a bucket of water. That is the impact of glue ear." *Marjorie Mowlam (Lab) arguing the importance of diagnosing children's deafness early.*

"We now have an opportunity to ensure that the parents of bright kids can say to a school: 'You are legally obliged to provide facilities for my bright child in the way that you provide them for backward or disabled children.'" *Terry Dicks (Con) arguing that clever children have special needs too during a schools debate.*

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Link stops production

Disability publishing suffered a blow last month with the news that *Link Magazine*, the full-colour monthly, is to end with the September issue.

Launched in April this year, it was published by Maxwell Consumer Publishing under licence to Central Independent Television. It was closely tied to the tv programme, *Link*, and aimed to sell 25,000 copies at £1.40 each or £19 for a year's subscription by drawing on the 1 million viewers.

But by June it had only 800 subscribers and around 3,000 sales through newsagents, according to editor Sian Vasey who, with two full-time and one part-time editorial staff, has been made redundant.

"I think they overestimated the instant reaction of disabled people to a magazine", she said. "Like anything else it takes time and steady pushing into the minds of people."

She thought the magazine should have been allowed "a couple of years" and given wider promotion. With corporate sponsorship, she believes *Link* may yet be resuscitated.

A press release from Maxwell said discussions were going on. It also said the original agreement was for a six month trial. Maxwell had "no comment" to make on what will happen to existing subscribers.

Naidex criticised

Continued from page 1

BSTA and many of its member companies have clearly explained our frustrations to the management of Naidex, but with no obvious result."

He warned: "either the current organisers pay heed to these requests or we will find a company who are prepared to give us, the industry, the kind of show we require."

Naidex sales director Michael Clemson, responded: "Mr Sherwood's claims are untrue. Naidex is well known throughout the world as one of the most important and influential exhibitions. We get visitors from as far afield as Japan, China and Israel.

"His letter has shocked and saddened many people. We have had more than 40 letters of support from exhibitors who disagree with the BSTA."

He said many of Mr Sherwood's initiatives had been tried and proved unsuccessful.

"We hold regional shows because that is what people want. Disabled people do not want to travel hundreds of miles and we find 80 per cent of people who go to our exhibitions live within a 60 mile radius of the venue.

"The NEC is a nice building, but it is always the London



Going fishing: William Buchanan, chairman of the Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability, A Masterson-Smith of *Readers Digest*, Ian Taylor, head bailiff Weir Wood Reservoir and Eddie Palmer, secretary of Eastbourne and District Fly Fishers Club, launch a new Wheelyboat and trailer, sponsored by *Readers Digest*. The Handicapped Anglers Trust works to get sponsorship for the boats, which let wheelchair users go fishing. The basic cost is £2,975 plus VAT. There are now 39 boats in England and Wales. Tel: (0424) 219404. TONY MARTIN



Anthony Higgs, 13, from Gwent learns plate-spinning with Dai Power from the Dynamix circus skills company at the Spastics Society's activity holiday for children with disabilities at Craig-Y-Parc school in August. LIAM WATSON

shows that attract the largest attendances."

He said weekend exhibitions had been tried three times but they did not attract enough visitors. A four day event would increase exhibitors' costs without boosting attendances. An exhibitors committee was tried in 1977. "It lasted two years before dying through lack of support."

The idea of charging disabled visitors and their helpers a £1 entry fee was "obscene".

Mr Sherwood said: "I do not want to create a quarrel. I am trying to build a constructive dialogue between organisers and exhibitors so we can sit down and work together for a better show."

Women's medals

Ann Frye, head of the Department of Transport's Disability Unit, and organiser of the Mobility Roadshow, got an OBE in the Queen's birthday honours in June. Ruth Anderson, chairman of the Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Group, won an MBE. Elizabeth Dendy, liaison officer with the Sports Council and vice-president of CP ISRA (Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association), got an MBE for services to disability sport.

Shelley's still waiting

Shelley Lynden-Wyatt's parents are anxiously waiting to hear if she can go to a school that will give her the intensive teaching she needs (*DN*, January).

Shelley, 5, of Kettering, who has cp, learning difficulties and autism, goes to Fairlawn Special School. Her parents want her to go to the RNIB school at Rushton Hall. They hope Northamptonshire County Council, who assessed Shelley in July, will pay the £24,000 a year fees. "This is the only

school which is suitable for her," said mum Julie. "It would give her just the kind of care and education she needs."

Simon Villet, the council's assistant officer for special education, said: "The assessment has not been completed yet, but on the face of the evidence we have, we feel Shelley is properly placed at her special school. We will, however, be consulting social services before making a final decision and their advice may be important."

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Acid test for vitamin

A Medical Research Council (MRC) study published in July says the number of babies born with spina bifida and similar neurological conditions could be cut by 75 per cent if women raised their intake of folic acid.

The MRC's Vitamin Study Research Group looked at 1,817 women who have already had a baby or foetus affected by spina bifida and other con-

ditions such as anencephaly and encephalocele, caused by the failure of the embryo's neural tube to close properly.

The women were given either folic acid or other vitamins, or both, or neither, during the months before their next pregnancy. Six out of 593 taking folic acid had an affected pregnancy - 72 per cent fewer than the women in the other groups who did not take it.

Professor Nicholas Wald of the Department of Environmental Medicine at St Bartholomew's Medical College



PATRICK BAGLEE

in London, who co-ordinated the trial, said: "There is no doubt that women who have already had an affected pregnancy will benefit from folic acid supplementation to reduce the risk of recurrence."

He added that although the finding applies to women who

have had an affected baby (and so are ten times more likely to have a second affected child), folic acid is likely to be similarly effective when taken by women in general.

The Government's chief medical officer, Sir Donald Acheson, is now setting up an expert advisory committee to consider how best to increase all women's folic acid intake.

Andrew Russell, executive director of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus said ASBAH was "thrilled" with the study.

But, he cautioned, a reduction in the number of babies born with the condition would not reduce ASBAH's "enormous task" of getting people the services, training and equipment they needed.

Bacteria connected to cancer

Scientists hope they are closer to finding a way of preventing stomach cancer after discovering a possible cause of it.

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund studied 29 middle-aged men with stomach cancer. Twenty of them (69 per cent) had been infected by the bacteria "helicobacter pylori".

Dr David Forman said: "We believe this bacteria is involved in as many as 55 per cent of stomach cancers and that people infected by the bacteria are three times more likely to develop stomach cancer than those who have not."

Stomach cancer kills 10,000 Britons a year. Dr Forman said: "At the moment the outlook for people with stomach cancer is very poor, but if we can understand how and why this bacteria is involved in cancer it may eventually be possible to eradicate it."

The Marfan search hits a bullseye

An international consortium of research groups has discovered that Marfan Syndrome is caused by mutations in the fibrillin gene on chromosome 15.

Marfan, which is inherited, weakens the connecting tissue surrounding internal organs, causing problems with the eyes, heart and skeleton.

After narrowing the search down to chromosome 15, the group began studying the genes



of 52 families affected by the syndrome. American scientists, led by Dr Petros Fspouras, already believed that the fibrillin gene was involved in the syndrome (DN, June 1991), but the consortium could find no proof until nearly every family they tested was found to have mutant fibrillin genes.

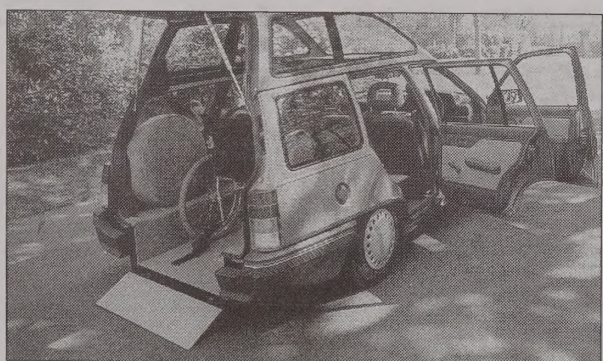
Dr Anne Child of St George's hospital in London, who led the British team, said: "This will make diagnosis much easier and, if we can develop a prenatal test, enable people with the syndrome to have unaffected children. But our first task will be to try and find out if there are any other causes of the syndrome."



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School's in for pioneer summer scholars

Rebecca Reynolds reports

Fifty people with profound to moderate learning difficulties and 25 enablers came from all over the country to a summer school in Lancaster last month.

It was the first time people with learning difficulties were able to learn alongside their parents and carers at a national summer school.

The organizers hope to run another course next year, but fear the long term future of such initiatives could be endangered by the Government's White Paper, *Education and Training in the 21st Century* (see DN July).

The course had 19 sporting and educational activities including computing, French, and black and Asian studies.

In the evenings some students joined Lancaster University's mainstream summer programme where they could hear lectures such as "sex and crime in the news" and the works of Jean Paul Sartre.

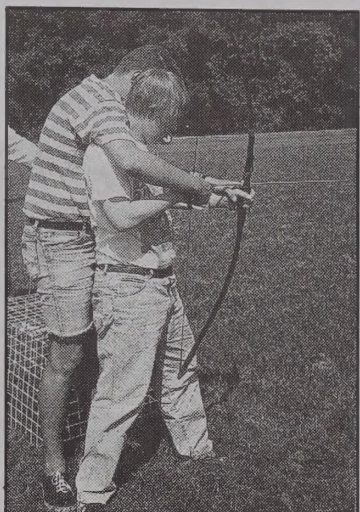
Most of the summer school's 300 to 400 pupils did not know people with learning difficulties would be with them.

Jeannie Sutcliffe, Project Coordinator for organizers The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

(NIACE) explained: "You don't say 'there are Asian people coming - do you still want to come?'"

Nobody showed doubts except one health services worker who feared she would not get a break from caring while she was on holiday.

In one evening, Christopher



Active on the archery range

Wren, 38, who has moderate learning difficulties, went to a debate on whether Britain should keep the Queen and royal family, a poetry reading, and a lecture on Lancashire textile workers, all part of the mainstream summer course.

Christopher said his local adult training centre did not

stretch him enough and he relished the opportunity to explore his abilities: "I asked my local centre if I could learn, but they said I was too old. It made me bitter."

Christopher, who had come on his own, said the school had given him firm ideas about what he wanted to do in the future. "I would like to have a grant to do arts full time."

People like Christopher may be threatened by the White Paper. Jeannie Sutcliffe said the proposal that colleges scrap non-vocational courses would "ghettoise" people with learning difficulties. "If they disappear there would not be any courses that people with learning difficulties could join in."

Rosemary Johns was able to work with her 18-year-old daughter Katie for the first time. They had been swimming, trampolining and were cutting out material to make an applique butterfly.

"The only contact I get with Katie at her day centre is letters and telephone calls," said Mrs Johns. She liked the way people with learning difficulties mixed with able-bodied people at the course. "It is a good idea because normal people learn to accept them."

NIACE also ran a programme for enablers, with talks



Rosemary and Katie Johns applique a butterfly REBECCA REYNOLDS

on starting to live in the community, using computers, and gender, race and disability. There were six key workers at the school trained to work with people with learning difficulties. But only two of the activity teachers had ever worked with people with special needs.

"Teaching special needs is about good practice in teaching and learning and not a mystical subject that requires different skills," said Jeannie Sutcliffe.

She thought one of the most important aspects was mixing with others. "One girl told me: 'I suddenly realized I could ask

my friends in for coffee'".

NIACE tried to integrate people down to the smallest details. Even the identity badges were the same. All the buildings were wheelchair accessible and labelled with pictures as well as words.

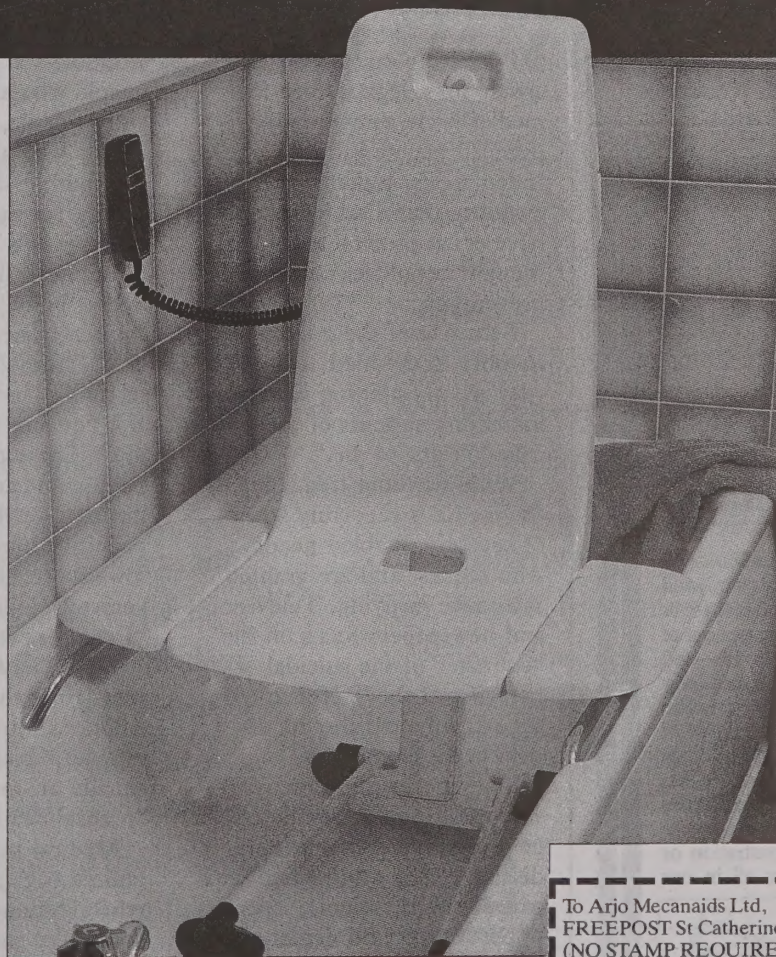
The course cost £25,000 to organize. Students paid their £235 fee themselves, or got it from charities, social services or their local authority. NIACE is making a video and will ask people on the course to suggest how it could be improved.

NIACE, tel: 0582 22566.

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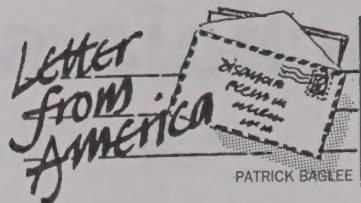
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PATRICK BAGLEE

Our Independence Days



Diane Coleman also discusses "right to die" and the assistive technology Act

Dear Friends,
It has been a very busy time for me since I last wrote in March.

ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programmes Today) has been to Washington DC twice to demonstrate for a national policy of funding attendant (carer) services, which many states do not provide at all.

We got wonderful support from a visiting Britisher, Mike Lesser. He accompanied us on several actions in which we targeted the US Department of Health and Human Services and the national nursing home lobby, which spends our tax dollars doing its best to ensure that people will not have a choice about whether they live in an institution.

A few weeks ago, one of our ADAPT members from Memphis, Tennessee, a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy, decided to move to Denver, Colorado, more than a thousand miles away.

She's long been assisted in her "activities of daily living" by relatives who are now becoming too ill to continue helping her.

Realising there would have to be a change, she applied for a place in a nursing home under Medicaid (health benefits for low income people), but they rejected her because she has a "developmental disability".

Then she applied to a care facility for people with mental

retardation and related conditions, but they rejected her because she does not have mental retardation.

Her county is the only one in Tennessee that offers home-based assistance for up to 400 elderly and disabled people, and she became one of those for a while, but they threw her off the programme when she started going to community college part-time. She could only qualify for the service if she was home-bound, needing 24-hour care (although the programme only provides four hours a day).

Nor did she qualify for the state's vocational rehabilitation service attendant programme which serves up to 13 people with quadriplegia.

So she has to leave her family and friends and move to a state where she can get the support she needs. We will miss her very much.

Another thing that has kept me busy is my new job. I'm working part-time as co-director of a project to increase the number of disabled people receiving "assistive technology" from the state of Tennessee. (Assistive technology can be anything from a voice-operated computer to a modified fork handle.)

Twenty-three of the 50 states in the USA have federal (central) grants for this kind of project under the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act 1988, which recognises

that a lot of people need information and help to work through the bureaucracy so they can get devices to improve their independence and functional abilities.

disabled persons.

When a person's doctor, lawyer, family and the state all agree that the individual's death is moral, ethical and appropriate, society is applying

Some right-to-die proponents dismiss as hysteria the argument of disabled activists that society has already fallen a long way down the slippery slope towards active euthanasia. Others openly embrace active euthanasia and hold up the Netherlands as a humanitarian model that we will achieve, once we have overcome our outdated religious dogma and nonsensical fears of repeating the Nazi Holocaust. (Accounts of the Holocaust in the US rarely bother to mention that hundreds of thousands of disabled people were "euthanized" in Nazi Germany by well-meaning doctors for the supposed common good.)

Two of the most prominent right-to-die cases involving people with severe disabilities are those of Elizabeth Bouvia, a woman with cerebral palsy who wanted to starve herself to death while being given morphine, and Larry McAfee, a quadriplegic who wanted his respirator disconnected.

The courts granted each of them the right to die. But they changed their minds and are still alive today. If the court battle had not outlasted their suicidal crisis, or if no court battle were legally required, as is increasingly the case, they probably would not be here.

Right-to-die supporters have also argued that the concerns of disabled activists are a form of paternalism. But would the same charges be leveled against women or people of colour for decrying the social pressures that lead to despair in their populations?

I think we cannot delude ourselves any longer into believing that professionals have "safeguards" in place to ensure that the decision to seek an assisted suicide is "competent, informed, rational, voluntary and uncoerced."

As society formulates policies on quality versus quantity of life, it's crucial to consult with *all* the experts, and the primary experts are severely disabled people.

Ironically, it is precisely these primary experts who have been dismissed as irrational, who have had to fight just to be admitted to the ethics debates.

As always, I welcome and enjoy your letters, and apologise for not yet being able to answer each of you who have kindly taken the time to write.

Until next time, yours for a more just society,

Diane Coleman

Diane Coleman, 1478 Stayton Road, Cumberland Furnace, TN 37051, USA.



May Day action: Washington DC police drag ADAPT members from the Dept of Health and Human Services. TOM OLIN

I've also been writing an article for a legal centre for medically dependent and disabled people in Indianapolis, Indiana, about ensuring that disabled people have equal protection under the law in policies on suicide prevention.

I am one of the growing number of disabled activists who are questioning society's increasing support of the so-called "right to die."

With alarming frequency, the media is reporting stories of severely disabled people who request and are granted assistance in dying. Television and newspapers focus on the "courage" of the suicidal person and the "heroism" of their family and the doctor who assist them to die.

They never question whether a public suicide might be a cry for help from a disabled person burdened with overwhelming stigma, lack of opportunities and denial of even minimal support services. They never ask why society supports our right to die so much more vehemently than our right to live.

The debate is not about anyone's right to commit suicide; it is about whether society should support suicide for a select group of persons,

a double-standard: one for people who are seen as healthy and valuable, and one for people who are not.

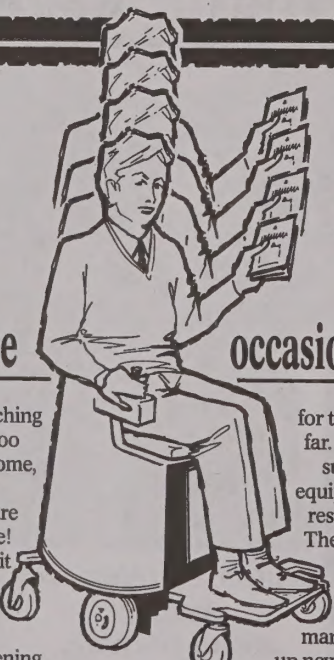
I think disabled people should get nervous when professionals and the media use phrases like "imprisoned by her body", "helpless", "suffering needlessly", "living hell", "futile", "medical torture", "limited resources" and "quality versus quantity of life". These phrases purport to be humane and compassionate, but they really express very primitive human emotions towards severe disability, and a very misguided condemnation: "I could never live like that".

US society is increasingly translating these primitive emotions into a supposedly rational social policy of assisted suicide or, more commonly, "natural death".

Medical professionals with limited background in rehabilitation are too quick to accept the suicidal feelings of their severely ill patients as rational and not worthy of the sort of investigation or intervention that they would routinely and legally force upon a non-disabled suicidal person. Unfortunately, even well-meaning professionals are not immune to prevailing cultural biases.

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Mama mia, this car is bellissimo!

David Griffiths, *DN's* motoring correspondent, puts the Uno Selecta on trial

I am not a lover of baby cars. Neat and easy to park they may be, but comfortable and relaxing they rarely are. And they often feel cramped and pretty vulnerable in some situations.

The Uno Selecta 3-door is not in the big car class: at just 61 and a half inches wide and a mite over 12 feet long, it is in the running for mini-motoring. But with a 1100 cc engine driving the constantly variable belt drive transmission through an electric clutch system, it has some of the attributes of cars three times the size.

The main expectation is that anything over 50mph will drown out normal conversation and anything in excess of 60 mph will be accompanied by total loss of acceleration in anything other than downhill situations. How wrong these assumptions can sometimes be.

Outside, the narrow, somewhat unstreamlined, boxy body indicated minimal cat-swinging space.

Inside, there was an air of open spaciousness, helped considerably by a fascia tucked up well away from the knees, and

generous areas of glass.

Turn the key and the expected clatter turns out to be as smooth a purr as any cream-filled tom cat could summon up on a Sunday. Slip the gearshift into "D", a slight touch on the handcontrols, and the purr moves smoothly off.

Out on the open road with a little more throttle, it begins to induce a feeling of capability as the purr rises slightly in time with the wheels.

A few miles on and you realise there is more than a hint of Latin verve here. A cluster of bends to get the feel of things and we arraa motoring! This little car is not hot and hairy, but it's no slouch if you give it its head. Driven firmly, it zips along and feels safe too, hurling round corners and taking bumps in its stride.

On the wider expanses of multi-lane motorways it loses some dash to size and performance, but it felt secure and relaxed at the legal limit.

In town traffic and on less well-engineered roads (and you have to have driven in Italy to know just what "less engineered" means to an Italian roadbuilder), it is a pleasure to drive, the Selecta system coping much better here than the Ford CTX or Volvo equivalents which exhibit irritating



The Fiat Uno Selecta is no slouch if you give it its head.

tendencies to jerk and lunge.

You get in via large, wide-opening doors with excellent head clearance. The seats are higher than average, making for easy transfer for wheelchair users and more convenience for people with walking disabilities. Sitting high like this in good, comfortable seats enhances the feeling of being in control too.

I would have liked a speedometer which had graduations at more frequent intervals - 20mph leaps are not good enough to help you avoid being zapped by VASCAR or whatever plaything your local constabulary uses.

And who decided that such a

ridiculously short, stiff bit of plastic on the left of the column was sufficient to safely operate the indicators? I hate indicator switches mounted in the hand controls. They are irritating unless you really cannot manage without them, but this is definitely one car which is virtually impossible to drive on hand controls without one.

The other controls fall nicely to hand and feel practical in use, and the whole is pleasantly simple and uncluttered.

The Uno's steering and brakes are a bit heavy compared with some of its rivals, but should not cause problems for the average user.

All-round visibility is excellent and the neat square shape should make for easy parking, attracting both inexperienced and older drivers.

The rear view mirror on the test car suffered from distortion and needed replacing, and I found the door mirrors a bit finicky to adjust.

The COWAL Hand Controls fitted to this vehicle were about the best I have seen from this company in 15 years or so - rattle free and smooth in operation. They felt safe and provided good, safe braking and a light accelerator.

Fuel consumption of 40 mpg is not unreasonable, and you could improve on it with care.

Motability hirers can invest just a few pounds under £500 as a deposit on this vehicle. For those wishing to buy, a 17 per cent discount brings the price to just under £7,500. But with the current economic climate, cash buyers might even improve on this.

Speaking of the recession, there are some superb offers around at the moment. Ford, for example, are offering 0 per cent finance and £1,000 off on some models, while Proton are offering free insurance, servicing, and a 6 year guarantee on some of their makes. The advice is - shop around.

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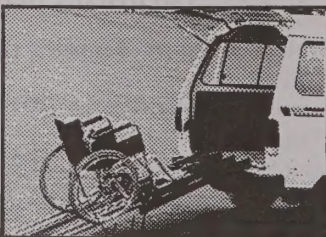
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My first memory of the Lambert Programme, done in the basement of 133b Harley Street,

London, is waiting in the rain at the top of a flight of steps.

After the cab driver went to tell them I had arrived, Bryyon Lambert came out to help lift me down (a good job I didn't come on my own).

As I entered the gym I heard noises of "Go on, go on, push harder" and saw clients lying on their backs pushing weights with their feet.

Bernie Murphy, 31, who has been coming twice a week for the last two years, said her bladder condition had improved and she no longer had double vision.

Vivien Nichols, 39, has been going twice a week for seven months. She felt stronger, can now pick her leg up and can control her bladder. Vivien said she experienced no pain from the treatment and from 100 lbs she can now push 510 lbs. She did feel tired later on.

Steven Bradley, 23, was another "success story". After two years' treatment, said his father, Steven is more mentally alert, can do a full day's work and can lift 1,100 lbs. He described how Mr Lambert "bonked Steven on the chest with a pick-axe handle which came as quite a shock". Steven felt his nervous system "tingle" and later he could stand straighter. Asked why his treatment seemed to work, Mr Lambert said: "You come to the nerve gym to overcome the initial irritation which was responsible for the degeneration of multiple sclerosis".

For a 12 week course in Harley Street (one session a week), it costs £1,200. Or, for £500, you can get five visits plus training at home. You must pay in advance.

I asked Mr Lambert if he would give me - someone who can't walk and who has been using a wheelchair for the last five years - an assessment. He pointed out Sarah Staunton, 33, who was also "wheelchair bound". Sarah had been coming once a week for six weeks. After doing leg exercises twice a day with her Mum, plus special techniques (including one to help her bladder control), her Mum says she can now stand straighter, her speech has improved and she can almost control her bladder, four weeks after having the indwelling catheter removed.

Mr Lambert has worked in "human engineering" for 30 years and has many years of clinical experience in treating malfunctions of human anatomy and physiology.

He believes that the inherent body strength of people with MS has been overlooked. Former civilisations led very

No hope for me in Harley Street

Isobel Ward reports on a new therapy for MS

physical lives: fighting, marching, manual work, etc. Because our civilisation leads a more sedate life, we don't have the strength to avoid forms of physical decline, such as MS.

Mr Lambert said there were two reasons why people fail his programme: they are too weak from drug treatment, special diets or from naturopathic medicine; or they are unable to get back to a normal diet ("you must eat the right protein").

The brochure describes the programme as "a carefully controlled self-activated progressive nerve compression training regime conducted both on a home and clinical basis, which with appropriate nutrition and rest beneficially affects the blood, lymph, nerve and cerebro-spinal fluid systems of the human body. From this, the auto-immune,

"He bonked Steven on the chest with a pick-axe handle which came as quite a shock."

autonomic and repair systems in the body are encouraged to become stronger. The consequent increase in repair potential is a desirable platform in the regaining of lost neurological skills and the rehabilitation of various levels of damage to tissues which will eventually settle down to a manageable level."

The brochure carefully mentions that "We view MS as a reversible encroaching weakness rather than an unknown uncontrollable disorder ... if (sufferers) are not overly deteriorated, have reasonable environmental resources and most importantly a burning resolve to improve and get well they should be able to commence the programme and take the first step on the road to recovery".

His assessment of me took less than ten minutes. I was asked to do a sit up while he made some discouraging noises. He then bent my legs up and asked me to resist his pressure. At this point he shook his head: "No... no... you see your motor nerves have gone. I don't think I'm going to be able to help you. If you were at 'this' level (he put his hand level with his head), like these girls (Bernie and Vivien), I could probably help you. But you are at 'this' level (he put his hand level

with his hips), the same as the girl over there" (he pointed to Sarah.) But, he concluded, "I don't think I can help you. It is relatively difficult to 'kick-start' someone like you."

A friend of mine has also visited the Programme. He is at what I suppose Mr Lambert would term a "low" level and now uses a wheelchair. He was eventually told he couldn't be helped either.

The Programme has been greeted with scepticism by experts. John Walford, general secretary of the Multiple Sclerosis Society commented: "The MS Society, through its medical advisers, have seen no evidence to suggest that the Lambert regime is helpful in the management of MS and does not therefore recommend it to members."

According to Mr Lambert, I was almost too far gone to help. What he didn't know is that I use the Body-mate technique which combines a pulsed magnetic field/electrical stimulation with ultra sound treatment. Done at home, it doesn't need any exertion. So, in the days leading up to my Thursday appointment at the



Bryyon Lambert shows Lee Thompson, 32, how to do it.

Lambert Clinic, I had been to a meeting at the BBC, sang and played saxophone in a late night gig, looked after my two year old boy, gone to a rehearsal, filmed *One in Four*, and done some journalism.

This time last year, I couldn't have contemplated doing all that. My motor is just starting up.

* Susie Cornell, who has MS, describes her *Multiple Sclerosis: A Home Video Programme* (£15.99 plus £1.95 p&p) as "a

positive approach to the management of MS". Despite a dull presentation and poor sound, there is no doubt Ms Cornell believes strongly in this exercise programme and wants others to benefit. Buying the video is a positive step to take - it's just a pity all these "alternative" approaches cost people with MS so dearly.

The Lambert Programme, tel: 071-486 1668. Body-mate Ltd, tel: (0509) 210481. Susie Cornell, PO Box 1270, Chelmsford, CM2 6BQ.

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Letters to the Editor

Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Frustrated by home rule

I was 40 when osteo-arthritis was diagnosed. Now at 80, I am so disabled that I can do no personal jobs, cannot get out of a chair or walk unaided. The only thing I am able to do is to feed myself with difficulty and use my electric typewriter with one finger. So I had no choice but to enter a home to be looked after.

The home I chose is probably one of the best, as it is family run. Ages of the residents range from late 70s to 102.

Those who can walk about treat the home like a hotel: they get up when they like, make their way down to their favourite seat in one of the lounges, go out alone or with relatives and return when they wish.

When I opted to come here I never envisaged being stripped of my independence. I am not allowed to phone my doctor. I cannot control the temperature of my room or the water. Whether I am asleep or awake, the bedclothes are thrown back and I am got up at 7.45am.

A home must be run by rules so of course there can be little flexibility. Those residents who are too infirm or for any reason unable to "toilet" themselves, are taken in rotation. Unfortunately I come into that category.

To most of the staff we residents present jobs to be done and we are spoken to as

if we are children. The management do not treat us as paying customers.

Another thing I did not expect was that there would be residents with Alzheimer's disease, who would come into my room, calling out for "Mum" or being aggressive, and me being unable to move.

Having an alert mind and independent spirit, interested in education, politics and finance, I simply cannot sit hours on end and vegetate as most of the residents do.

Sir Brian Rix said recently how much his handicapped daughter was looking forward to going into a home where she would be able to become a little independent, and said what a big difference it made to take even small decisions, like making a cup of tea or deciding what to eat for breakfast.

The same is true in reverse. The elderly, put into a home with nothing to stimulate them and all independence taken from them, can deteriorate.

I am determined this shall not happen to me, but oh! how I would like to be in my own home and able to make my own cup of tea.

Mrs Lois Chapman
Peterborough, Cambs

Yellow ducks

I am writing with reference to your article "Where are all the yellow ducks?" (DN, July). As a supplier of inflatable rubber cushions (available to



The pool of Jane Hodge Hotel, a "haven" for Roy Smith.

those with particular needs via the disablement wheelchair service, now administered by local authorities), I would like to point out that the cost of such an item is minimal compared to the cost of treating a pressure sore.

Hospital treatment of a Grade 4 pressure sore has been shown to cost £26,000. Indeed, the cost of treating pressure sores in hospital is thought to be at least £420 million a year and then, of course, there is the cost of treating them outside hospital.

I would also like to stress the discomfort and pain that pressure sores cause the individuals who are unfortunate enough to have them. So surely £325 is a small price to pay and could lead to vast savings of pain, time and money.

Indeed this company offers a wide range of services for which there is no charge. So the suggestion of profiteering could not be further from the

truth.

Sarah Saunders

Raymar

Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

Squirrel lament

I deeply regret that Chairpower has become defunct (DN, April).

Having been completely paralysed by polio in the '50s, I've had a succession of chairs adapted for my use with a mouthstick. They'd all been reliable and served me well, but the Squirrel is an innovation and in a class of its own.

Three features I find excitingly different: the marvellous stability and 4-wheel drive enable me to venture over uneven terrain that was impossible before with no fear of overturning; the 4-wheel steering provides power and tight, indoor manoeuvring; and the 17 degree backward-tipping facility of the whole upper chassis enables me to have

something I've longed for, which is a change of posture in relation to gravity.

The chair now looks good and was very reasonable in price - and it's fun to drive.

If it disappears, it'll be a loss not only to Squirrel owners but to the market as a whole.

Mary Gould

Romsey, Hants

A spokesperson for Shanning Mobility Systems, tel: (0234) 269220, which has taken over the Squirrel, says that the old Squirrel is being discontinued, though servicing for existing users will continue. BUT...an updated version is being launched in November, which will retain the strengths Ms Gould mentions and include new technology. Why can't it be called Squirrel? - Editor.

Happy holidaymaker

I have just returned from holidaying at a purpose-built holiday hotel run by the John Grooms Association for Disabled People, and I feel your readers may be interested to learn about it.

Everything within the hotel is completely accessible and the facilities, including a large swimming pool (see above), are outstanding, as is the cuisine and the comfort of the rooms. I consider myself to be a discerning and discriminating person but I was unable to find fault with the hotel, facilities or staff.

The name of this haven is the Jane Hodge Hotel, Trerhyngyll, near Cowbridge, South Glamorgan. The John Grooms Association, tel: 081-8020 8695, will send details.

Roy Smith

Gerrards Cross, Bucks

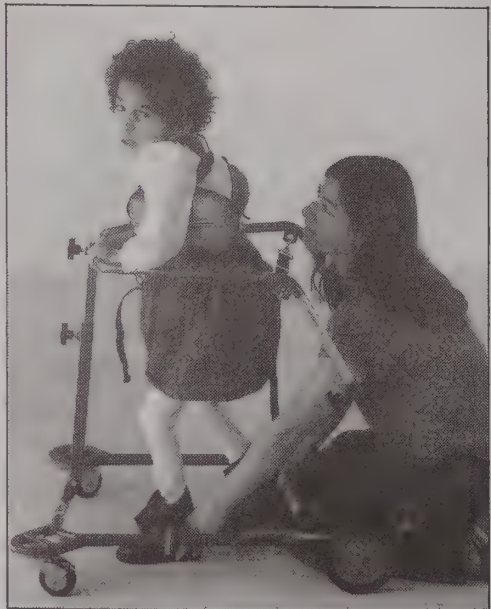
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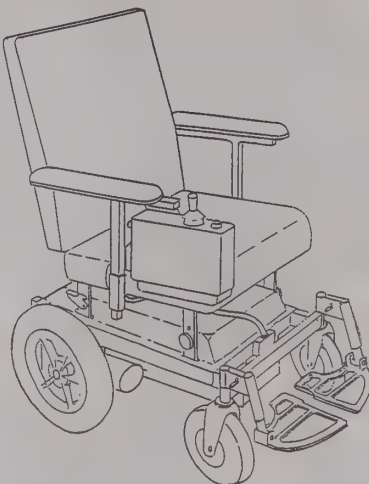
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Clamping it up

A funny thing happened on the way to...the Department of Transport where Guy Skilton of London Dial-a-Ride met Transport Minister Roger Freeman. Guy's cab ran three minutes overtime on the parking meter, so the driver went in to get Guy. Coming out, he found the cab being wheel-clamped. Protests went unheeded. Guy, who has cp and cannot walk very far unaided, had to wait two hours for the cab to be unclamped and cancelled the next trip, to his Croydon post office.

Three steps to heaven

Shoppers in the new Debenham's arcade in Cheltenham can now take a break from their frenzied spending and rest beside cool waters and lush greenery. "A little bit of heaven," says DN reader Mrs Lawrence. But you won't get to heaven if you are disabled: there are three hellish steps down to it. Come Judgement Day...

Everyone's a winner at the Special Olympics

Anne Nicholls
reports from the USA

The Special Olympics - the sporting event for people with learning difficulties - was held in Minnesota, USA, in July.

The 117 strong British team of athletes won a total of 37 gold, 35 silver and 17 bronze medals - an outstanding achievement surpassing expectations.

The Games, the largest international sporting event this year, saw over 6,000 athletes (ages 8-69) from 105 countries compete in 16 categories of sport watched by around 129,000 spectators.

Amazingly for an event of this size, no-one was accused of cheating, no-one made a single complaint and no-one was tested positively for drugs. The week was a celebration not only of sporting achievement, but of international co-operation on a grand scale.

Equal chances for all

In many ways, these Olympics are much closer in spirit to the original Greek ideal of the Olympic Games where individual achievement was more important than national glory. There is no official tally of medals for different countries.

"Taking part is genuinely as important as winning. The motto of the Games is: 'Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.'"

Taking part is genuinely as important as winning. The motto of the Games is "Let me win: but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

To enable the less able athletes, as well as the star performers, to win there is a system of "divisioning" where athletes compete in categories according to their physical (not mental) ability. This means the less able athletes compete with people on a similar level.

Critics say these rules are unfair on the better athletes who have trained hard and may fail to win a medal within their division, whereas others who have put in less training may still win a medal in a lower division.

Winning not the only goal

However, the purpose of divisioning is to give everyone a chance of winning and to recognise individual effort. Few athletes go home disappointed as the Games does not accept the concept of "losing" - every competitor gets a ribbon of participation.

Winning a medal may not be the ultimate goal of all the ath-

letes, but for Scotsman Jim McDaid, who won two gold medals in wheelchair races and Lee Crawford from Barking, Essex, who won two gold medals for swimming, being presented with their medals was the high spot of the week and something they will never forget. "It was fantastic," said Lee Crawford. "I didn't believe it until I got the medal. The other opponents were very tough." Jim McDaid didn't find the opposition so tough. "I thought the competition was very poor."

Powerlifters help others

Impressive performances included Vietnamese-American Andrew Leonard who lifted 410 lbs (four times his own weight) after smashing a finger and taking eight stitches.

Born in Vietnam and orphaned during a rocket attack, he had nerve damage due to untreated infections. This resulted in his having



Cori Spanswick triumphant

learning difficulties. When he was adopted as a boy by his American parents he spoke no English and very little Vietnamese.

Both Andrew and British power lifter Gary Jelen (who won a silver medal) spent much of their time helping other Special Olympians with their power lifting techniques.

"I was pleased to get a silver medal but disappointed I didn't get a gold," said Gary. "But I thought being out there for nearly two weeks (the team flew out a week before the



George Johnstone is congratulated by his sister and brother-in-law.

ANNE NICHOLLS

Games) was too much. It got a bit boring and I couldn't do any training."

The first perfect ten (full marks) in Special Olympics gymnastics went to Kit Wai Chan from Hong Kong for his spectacular vault. Two British gymnasts, Allison Kidger and Ruth Kelly, won a combined seven silver and one gold. Cori Spanswick took two silvers and two bronzes.

Rider George Johnstone, who has Down's Syndrome, won a gold medal and rider David Capp, who has cerebral palsy, won a bronze, both in equestrian competitions

New developments for 1991

One of the bravest performances was that of cyclist Helen Masson from Southport, who broke her right wrist after slipping on a pair of sunglasses, but insisted on cycling the race the next day with her arm strapped up.

This year's Special Olympics (the eighth International Games) saw several new developments. For the first time, the half marathon was introduced and won, appropriately, by a Greek runner, Savvas Vikelis, in 1 hour 25 minutes.

Boccia - basically a form of bowls or "boules" - was played for the first time and chess was introduced as a demonstration game. Eight competitors from the Soviet Union, Indonesia, the United States and Britain took part culminating in a match with the reigning US Open Championship grandmaster Yasser Seirawan.

"The only factor preventing people with mental retardation (the American terminology) from playing chess in the past has been the limitations that we have placed on them," said Special Olympics chairman Sargent Shriver (husband of the founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver).

"We never asked if they

would like to play chess."

Similarly, until recently few people believed that anyone with learning difficulties could run the half marathon, let alone the full marathon. Special Olympians such as Loretta Claiborne from Pennsylvania have achieved both. Other "firsts" included the 10,000 metres and 40km cycling races and several integrated sports, such as tandem cycling.

Run-up to Barcelona

Next year, Special Olympians will compete alongside other Olympic athletes in demonstration sports at the Barcelona Olympics.

Whilst performances do not

yet match those of other Olympic athletes today, in the running events in particular, some Special Olympians are putting in better performances than athletes in former Olympic Games. Loretta Claiborne ran the full marathon in 3 hours 3 minutes in 1986, 25 minutes faster than Olympic athlete Thomas Hicks in the 1904 Olympics. Many other Special Olympians are performing better than their predecessors in the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki.

It cannot be too long before athletes with mental handicap will be competing alongside world class athletes without

Continued on page 14

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Brits pipped at the post in World Wh

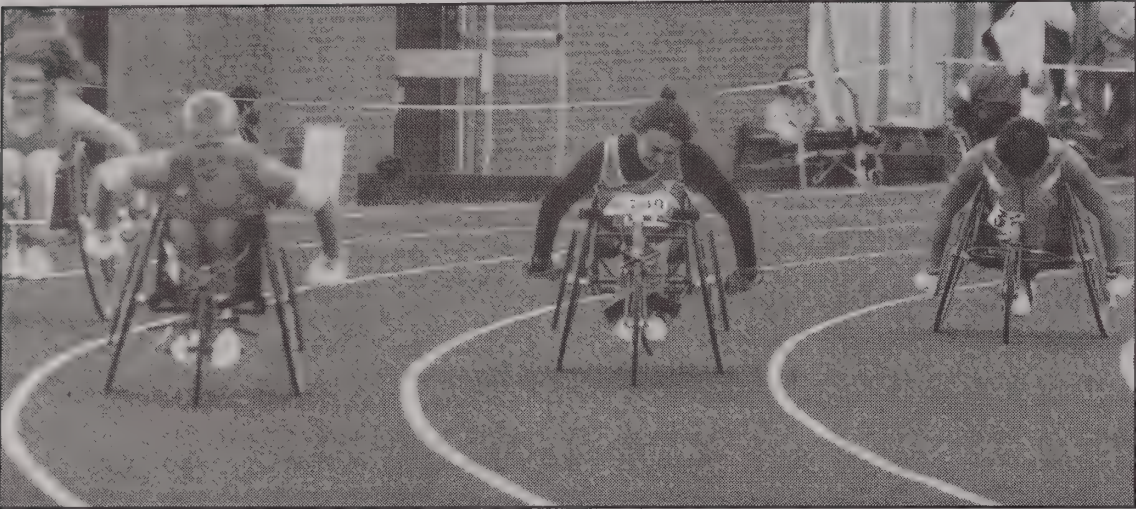
Tim Russell reports

Britain was narrowly beaten into second place on the final day of the 40th World Wheelchair Games at Stoke Mandeville in Aylesbury. The United States won last month's ten-day competition with 39 golds, two more than Great Britain. Canada came third and Brazil fourth. Last

year's winners, Australia, slumped to seventh place. Despite being pipped at the post, the 116-strong British squad had plenty to cheer about. They broke three world records and provided many of the Games' most memorable highlights. Bristol's Sara Fairweather set a world weightlifting record in the women's 44-48kg class with 55 kilos, while

James Richardson, of Gateshead, set two world records in the F1 division of the club and discus. Terry Hopkins, of Farnborough, provided the bravest performance of the Games by winning the shot putt event with an injured elbow. "I am very relieved to have won," said Terry. "I injured the elbow in practice,

damaging a ligament. It was very painful to throw, but I was determined to finish the competition." Terry, who broke the world record at the National Games in June, is now hoping the injury will not affect his preparation for the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona. John Harris, of Wales, was delighted to win the men's javelin event after only coming 7th in the pentathlon. It was John's first international event since he broke the javelin world record at the Seoul Paralympics three years ago. John retired from athletics for three years because he was bored of the sport but has returned as fit and enthusiastic as ever. "I really enjoyed myself," said the 45-year-old veteran. "Standards have certainly risen since I've been away, which makes my return even more of a challenge. There's plenty of life left in me yet and I'm hoping to be selected for Barcelona."



Heads down as they come round the bend. Tanni Grey (third from left), is Britain's best female track racer. She scooped the golds in the T3 100m and 200m.



Terry Hopkins: going, going ...

Britain's best female track racer Tanni Grey, from Cardiff, won the

Special Olympics

Continued from page 13

mental handicap. Much of the success of the Special Olympics movement is due to the beliefs of people such as founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver (sister of the Kennedy brothers) who claimed, against majority opinion, that people with mental handicap could achieve far more than was previously

assumed in sporting events. Another reason behind the Games unqualified success was the meticulous planning, begun three years ago. With a core staff of 80 and around 40,000 volunteers, every detail was anticipated. "It didn't just seem organised. It was very organised," said chairman of the board, millionaire company director Irwin Jacobs, who has a daughter with mental

handicap. There were two or three nets for every situation in case something fell through.

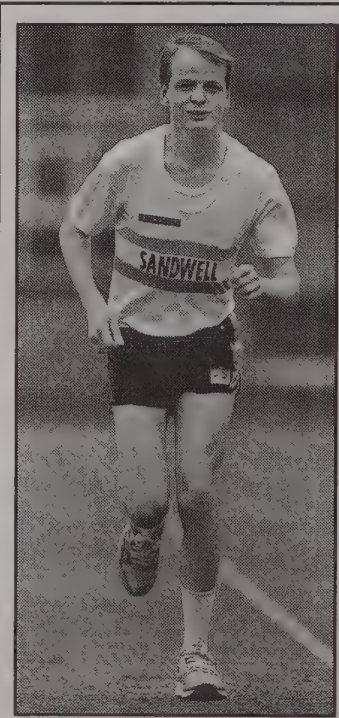


Superscot Jim McDaid

People dealt with things professionally and with an acceptance and a giving that I have never seen before." Details, such as providing breakfasts of fish and rice for the athletes from South-East Asia and ensuring the 200 shuttle buses to the 20 event venues ran on time, contributed to the very smooth running of the Special Olympics overall. More than 1,500 medical volunteers offered their services to the athletes. This included free eye examinations and therapeutic massage. Medical records for each athlete were available on computer at each event venue in case of emergencies (of which there were very few). Security was tight. Not even the athletes' parents were allowed inside the dormitory areas in the Olympic Village (located in the University of Minnesota). An entire floor of a hotel was taken over as the Games HQ with rows of computers buzzing away with information

and two large suites in another hotel were converted into a medical information centre. The whole cost of the Games (expected to break even) was estimated at around \$22 million - most of it provided by corporate sponsorship. Irwin Jacobs, the man who brought the Games to Minneapolis, himself underwrote the event to an estimated \$8 million (around £5 million). Was it worth it? There are those who say that the concept of a special event is patronising. Few people who have seen what can be achieved would agree.

"Special Olympics is a great step forward in creating an awareness in a real sense," said Irwin Jacobs. British team manager Robert Mutch and wrestler-actor Pat Roache, who has been promoting Special Olympics in the UK agree. "Special Olympics shows what people with disabilities are capable of doing." "The real aim is to offer opportunities to people with a mental handicap and to raise public awareness for people who are putting in good performances. The next step is to move on and compete in mainstream competitions," said Mr Roache. Perhaps the best comment made during the Games was by a Japanese head of delegation who said he suffered culture shock at the opening ceremonies - that Special Olympics was breaking up so many structures and differences in language, race and nations were no longer important.



Disabled athlete Brian Clarke of Birmingham has won the Sandwell Training and Enterprise Council's "Excellence in Sport" award for 1991.

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Wheelchair Games



GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

one. 3 100m and 200m and was second the 400m.

One of the surprise results in the Games came in the final of the men's bowls. Welshman Ken Bridgeman beat the seven-times former winner Jim Sellar, from Scotland, 25-24.

But the biggest upset came with the Canadian's victory over the United States in the basketball final. Britain overwhelmed Austria 74-34 to take third place.

Steve Cain starred for the British team, dazzling the opposition with his superb passing and handling skills.

After the match, Phil Craven, President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation, said: "Steve is our brightest hope for the future and I am sure he will be a major star at the 1992 Paralympics."

There was controversy in the final of the men's 10km race when American athlete James Brigg was judged to have taken gold. But a photographer later produced pictures which proved the Frenchman Jean-Francois



One ball, nine desperate men: GB v Canada in the men's basketball semi. Canada won.

Poitevin had crossed the line at the same time and, after a judges' meeting, it was decided that both men should share the gold medal.

Records tumbled in the swimming events at this year's Games, which introduced the new functional classification

system for the first time.

Andrew Blake from Essex set a new Games record in the heats of the S7 100 metres freestyle and then broke the record again in the final, swimming a time of 1.20.28.

Dagenham-based Beverley Gull had a gold medal swim in

the 100 freestyle event, setting a new standard of 1.25.38.

Britain won all three medals, in the men's open table tennis. Gold medal winner Chris Ball, from High Wycombe, beat team mate Phil Noble in the final. Martin Evans from Wales took the bronze.



g all out for the tape: Geoff Adams of Canada (left) put in a -stopping performance to win a silver medal in the men's 400m.

... but we can't half waterski

Britain won the team trophy at the World Disabled Waterskiing Championships in the USA in July.

As well as breaking four world records, the 14-strong British team won the team title, the slalom competition and the trick trophy.

Britain's top disabled woman waterskier, Debbie

Simms, from Windsor, set three world records during the two-day event and won the slalom, trick and jump events.

Britain's other record breaker was Christopher Mairs, a partially sighted skier from Islington, who won the wake-crossing competition and set a new world record for the event.

Steve Woodcock, the world leg amputee champion, won a gold in the trick event and a silver in the jump.

Woodcock, from Surrey, broke the world record for the trick event - which includes feats such as somersaults, reverse turns and wake crossing - by scoring 310 points.

Goal!Ball

The British women's Goalball team came fourth in the European Championships in Finland last month.

Goalball is a game for blind people that is played on a tactile court with a ball that acts like a rattle.

GB reached the semi-finals, but lost 2-1 to Sweden who eventually took the gold by beating Finland in the final.

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BOOKS

Being Deaf - The Experience of Deafness
by George Taylor and Juliet Bishop (eds)
(Open University (OU), £39.50 hb, £11.95 pb)

Constructing Deafness
by Susan Gregory and Gillian M Hartley (eds)
(OU, £35.00 hb, £12.95 pb)

These two books for the new OU course "Issues in Deafness" provide unique anthologies of wide-ranging source material in deaf studies.

It's refreshing to see a British contribution to the literature on deafness instead of having to depend on the prolific American output.

In *Being Deaf*, deafness is described in the words of deaf people, and moves from youth to age.

In the early chapters, hearing parents write about diagnosis and the struggle for language acquisition.

Although the experiences of deaf adults in subsequent chapters varies, most start by revealing the difficulties they had at school. Too often, these were caused by misguided attitudes towards their intelligence and linguistic

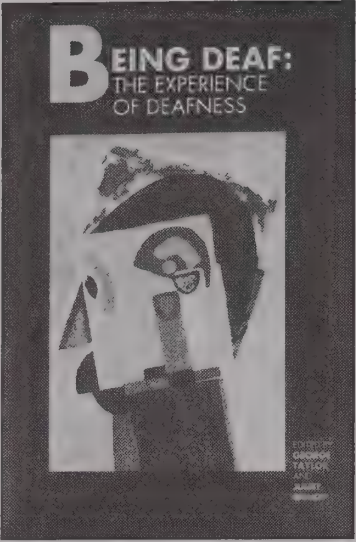
rights, rather than deafness itself. Even those who succeed in higher education meet with discrimination if they want to be teachers of the deaf or take up other professional roles. Yet the writers share an ability to take charge of their situation and eventually achieve their ambitions even if this takes many years.

After 30 years working in a shoe factory and developing into a key activist in the deaf community, Billy Lambert became a social worker and a regional director of the RNID. Christopher Jones became an educational psychologist in his 40s, and Clive Mason achieved his childhood ambition to be a television presenter in his 30s.

For the first time in Britain, deaf people whose first language is BSL make their contribution with the assistance of interpreters. These chapters provide great insight into the experience of deaf people as a linguistic group. Here, deaf people seem to be at their most humorous, while still struggling.

Whether the contributors are famous like Jack Ashley MP, or "ordinary" people, you are struck by the determination not "to overcome deafness", but to make sense of the barriers society creates, be accepted as who they are, and lead fulfilling lives.

My only disappointment is that the book offers very little



insight into the experience of elderly deaf people today. There are two very amusing chapters which are translations of videoed sign from a group of elderly people reminiscing about their school days and the war. Why do they assume that elderly people only want to talk about the past?

Constructing Deafness concentrates on prelingually, profoundly deaf people and is cram-packed with writing from mostly hearing academics and professionals over a wide range of disciplines. It aims to reflect the social construction of deafness and provides snapshots of debates about definitions of deafness and their implications.

As the editors acknowledge, "recent challenges to established ideologies are leading to shifts in the

debates", which puts publications like this at risk of becoming dated. Chapters on hearing and technological aids, for example, were already a somewhat dated as the book went to print, even though they were written only four or five years ago. But most of the debates will last for some years to come. Although many chapters represent drastically cut original publications, the book provides a good, comprehensive introduction to deaf studies for beginners, those contemplating a career in the field of deafness, or those who just like to get their teeth into some glorious debate!

Aquarobics
by Glenda Baum
(Arrow Books, £9.99)

Doing aerobic exercises in water is not a new idea. Neither is using music to set the rhythm. But such programmes are usually geared towards people who are already fit and either want to loose excess fat or want to "stay in shape".

People who need hydrotherapy regularly usually have to stick to a prescribed and often tedious routine. And there are times when you need more intensive sessions tailored to a particular need, for example after surgery.

This book bridges the gap between the sort of aerobics

which can be too strenuous and therefore harmful to those of us with difficult, stropky bodies, and that boring old exercise routine. Glenda Baum uses the familiar pattern of a slow warm-up section, a faster middle section and then a wind-down. The only exercises I couldn't do were in the faster, middle section.

After my session, I came out the pool feeling as if I had had a luxurious stretch, and having thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Now all we have to do is convince the "powers that be" that permanent, regular physio/hydrotherapy is a must for people who have arthroid conditions and not - as is happening all too often these days - an optional extra, to be resorted to only after operations or during flare ups.

Kate Bird

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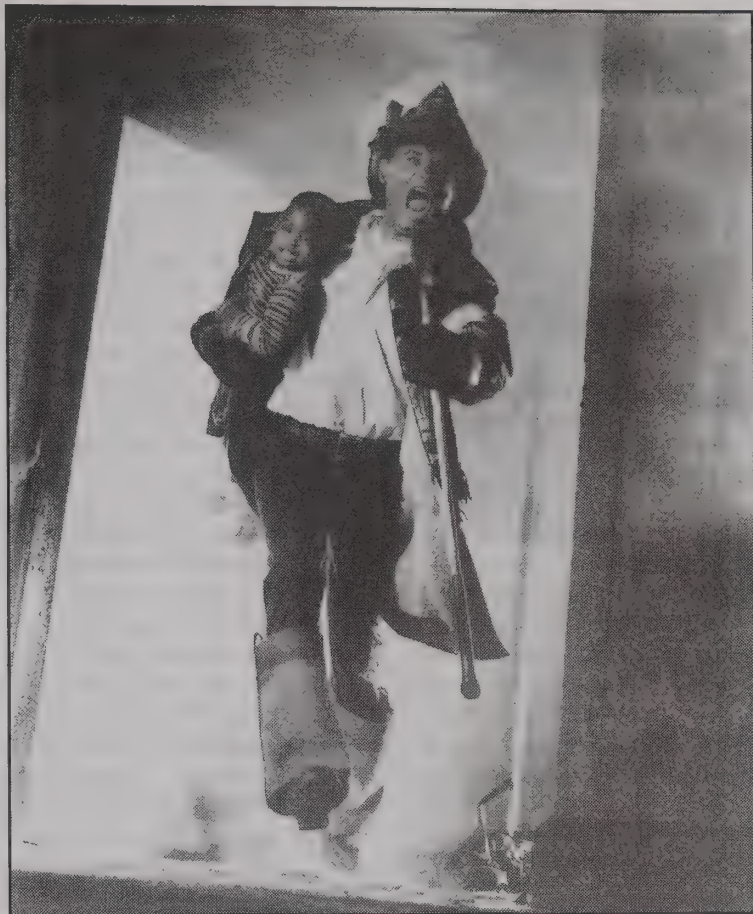
FILM

Fighting fire with schmaltz

Fire-fighting is something of a tradition for the gung-ho firemen of the Chicago Fire Department and Ron Howard's action-packed *Backdraft* is a tribute to it.

Young Brian McCaffrey (William Baldwin) accompanies his fire-fighting dad on a routine call, only to witness his death in the line of duty. Twenty years later, Brian and his brother Stephen (Kurt Russell) are now members of the Fire Department, but Brian is a recent graduate while Stephen is a lieutenant and an old hand.

Because Brian has settled on his vocation via a variety of dead-end jobs, big brother Stephen doubts his commitment. The plot thickens when Brian is assigned to Stephen's team.



What a hero: Fireman McCaffrey rescues a child.

The brothers don't gel, Brian quits and joins the Office of Fire Investigation. Here he teams up with Donald Rimgale (Robert de Niro), an investigator whose torso has been disfigured by severe burns.

Rimgale is on the trail of a mysterious arsonist and turns to an old adversary, Ronald Bartel (Donald Sutherland revelling in a cameo), for help. Bartel is an institutionalised pyromaniac who, in true bad guy style, is also disfigured

about his face and hands.

The intrigue that builds up culminates in a test of Brian's commitment, fraternal loyalties and the memory of an esteemed father.

This is all spectacular stuff, though flawed with implausibilities. The Chicago firemen are inclined to eschew caution and wade into the thick of the flames. Not, I would have thought, very wise. But, we are assured, in Chicago they go out and grab the fire by the throat. Only the lily-livered stand outside and shoot water in.

Regrettably, cinematic tradition again runs true to form. Disability is stereotyped. Bartel, the baddie, not only has mental health problems but also facial and physical disfigurement.

Interestingly, we do have Bartel mockingly upbraid Rimgale for being embarrassed about his disability. "Still afraid to roll up your sleeve?" he says to the investigator. This moment fleetingly (and possibly inadvertently), touches on an important psychological aspect of invisible disability: if it can be covered up it's not there. A glint of hope flashes from among the swirling, smokey pyrotechnics.

Andy Kimpton-Nye

TV

On only three occasions in the last ten years has mainstream television got to grips with disability as a political concept: *We Won't Go Away* (1981), *Statement of Intent* (1983), and *Rights not Charity* (1988). Not an enviable record.

Now Steve Cribb can feel proud that his documentary "Promise You Won't Let Them Out on the Street" (*Video Diaries*, BBC2, 20 July) has joined the list.

That's not to say that the programme was without flaws. I assume Steve was chosen primarily because of his active role in the Campaign for Accessible Transport (CAT). Given this, and his statement in the introduction that viewers would not discover through him "the medical origins of disability", why was it necessary to show him being undressed for bed? In this sequence, and in another showing him getting up, Steve's physicality was emphasised. This contradicted his political line of thought.

Although a lot of time was devoted to the Oxford Street CAT demonstration, not much of it featured him. Instead of just parking himself in front of a bus and staying there, it would have helped if he had talked to fellow demonstrators and the police. By doing so he could have made the demo footage more personalized. After all, it was Steve Cribbs' video diary, not CAT's.

Nevertheless, as a television testimony to the disability movement, it was excellent. Unlike *Rights not Charity*, which tried to cover too much too quickly, it took its strength from being one person's viewpoint and focusing on one issue, accessible transport.

Not being a fan of *The Golden Girls*, I missed the original series now being repeated on Channel 4. The episode "Blind Ambition" (C4, 31 July) did nothing to endear me to the show.

The stereotyping storyline presumed that Lily, who had recently lost her sight, had to rely on the good sense of her non-disabled sister to understand her disability. It also used the old chestnut that people who acquire disability are always bitter and resentful.

"Blind Ambition" was made in 1986, so perhaps that's some excuse. Polly Holliday, who played Lily, may or may not be genuinely blind. Judging by the storyline's lack of sensitivity, it would be entirely fitting if she was sighted! Fortunately, America has done better since then.

Chris Davies

VIDEO

DN film critic Andy Kimpton-Nye's top five*:

1. HOME ALONE (CBS/Fox) Bungling burglars are foiled by precocious child left at home by parents in yuletide mega-hit comedy.
2. FLATLINERS (RCA/Columbia) Julia Roberts as one of five students experimenting with induced brain death.
3. FEAR (1st Independent) Psychological thriller with Ally Sheedy on the trail of a serial killer.
4. ARACHNOPHOBIA (CIC) First it was birds, then it was a shark, now it's deadly spiders terrorising humans.
5. GHOST (CIC) Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze carry on a ghostly affair.

* Chart courtesy of The Video Palace

Look out for

European festival of disability arts. 21 September. London. Tel: 071-935 5588/8999 voice and minicom.

A Kiss on the Bottom. Bittersweet comedy. Signed performance 7 October. Sherman Theatre, Cardiff. Tel: (0222) 230451.

Too many excellent exhibitions are "lost" to the public because they are not displayed in local or accessible galleries - Mencap's International Exhibition (DN August) is a case in point.

So after visiting some of the dreary, over-blown, over-priced exhibitions on show in public galleries nowadays, it was a real pleasure for me to visit the Morley Gallery in London last month.

Art in Mind had a splendid variety of artworks by people attending the mental health centres at Castle Day Centre, the Blackfriars Work Settlement and the Ivydale Resource Centre.

Opening the exhibition, the MP for Bermondsey, Simon Hughes, called for more money to fund the ever-increasing demand for these excellent services.

Enthusiasm and talent showed in every piece, some group projects, others by individuals: drawings, painting, photography, collage, masks, expressive glove puppets, pottery and sculpture; also embroidery and a lovely, wall-hung, wool rug. They all glowed with colour and vitality - a real treasure trove.

GLAD celebrates being an organisation OF disabled people with a cabaret. 30 September. London. Tel/minicom: 071-274 0107.

The Sleep of Reason. Play about deaf artist Goya. 8-27 October. Signed performance 22 October. BAC, London. Tel: 071-223 6557.

EXHIBITION

Art in Mind

Unfortunately the exhibition has closed, but do look for similar shows locally and make enquiries, even demands, of your local authority that they

help centres display their wealth of talent and artwork more widely. It gives dignity and status to the work, promotes cooperation and understanding of social skills and achievement, and could even earn the artists some much needed money.

Gioya Steinke

Castle Day Centre, tel: 071-703 4596.

MORE NEW ITEMS



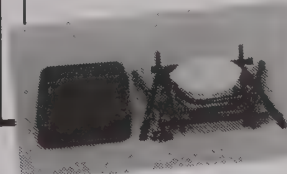
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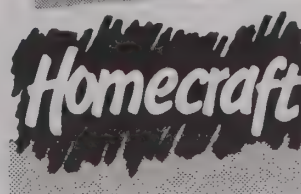


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THE MARKET LEADER IN PRODUCTS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

I am delighted to be asked to take over this Share Your Problems column, and hope that I shall be able to contribute some useful thoughts and information to those of you who write to me.

I have done many things in my life, but being an "agony aunt" has not been one of them! I am, however, totally committed to the belief that information can empower. So I would be happy for you to write to me on any subject at all that is concerning you, and I will do all I can to help.

I am very aware that there are many problems for which there is no single answer and these we need to share by opening up a discussion with other readers.

I hope that readers will also write in when they have suggestions on how to cope

Share Your Problems

with Ann Darnbrough

Information is the key to empowerment



with a particular problem aired in this column. As a person with a disability, I know very well how helpful shared solutions can be.

I will do my best to help not only with emotional problems, but also with information about practical difficulties - mobility, access, education, money and so on.

Looking through some

recent letters, I found a variety of problems.

There was a letter from the friend of a young, disabled mum, living on her own, who was not sure if she was going to be able to cope with her baby. The little seven-month-old girl was in care, but social services were suggesting that she could go home if her mother felt she could manage.

Social services, themselves, have to be the key to making it possible, but the impression I got was that they had not been too helpful. They should be advising the mother on adaptations to the house and on aids and equipment which would make looking after the baby much easier.

Fortunately, the writer lived in Derbyshire, where there is an excellent centre run largely by disabled people, the Derbyshire Centre for Integrated Living (DCIL). Not only would they be able to help with the practical problems now and later, but they could put her in touch with other mums who have similar experiences.

DCIL not only provides a direct service at its specially adapted centre but spreads its service all over Derbyshire through 11 community link workers, each based in the area they cover and many of them disabled.

Among the letters were some from older people, who find they cannot cope as well as they have done during earlier years of living with a disability. Some parts of the body have had to work hard to

compensate for those parts which were not working at all. As we get older these over-worked muscles groan in complaint at the extra effort we have put on them.

Some problems are often not recognised - those of people with cerebral palsy, for example, are only now coming to be understood. And although post polio syndrome is well known to people who contracted polio as children, many doctors are still not very helpful about it.

Whether we're old or young, we may have problems with our sex lives. While many disabled people have very happy and fulfilling sexual experiences, others have difficulties for lack of advice and practical information.

One young man, about to be married, writes: "Sexual intercourse - I don't think this can be ignored. Can you help with advice about books, positions, etc? Can my illness (juvenile chronic arthritis) be passed on?"

SPOD (The Association to Aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of People with a Disability) will be glad to advise on all aspects of sexuality. When requested, they will also try to put individuals in touch with a counsellor in their area.

In future columns I will go into these subjects more thoroughly. In the meantime, do write to me c/o DN (address on page 28) if you think I can help or you can give advice based on your own experience to readers mentioned in this column.

Derbyshire Centre for Integrated Living, Long Close, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3HY, tel: (0773) 740246.
For professional and unbiased information on aids and equipment, contact the nearest disabled living centre via the Disabled Living Centres Council, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU, tel: 071-266 2059.
SPOD, tel: 071-607 8851.

PROFILE



Shaun Newcomb

Shaun Newcomb has won the RAC's first Disabled Driver of the Year award. He beat five others in the grand final at Donington race track last month.

Shaun, 32, of Lymington, Hampshire, works as a section leader for an insurance firm and is a member of the Disabled Drivers' Motoring Club (DDMC).

He learnt to drive after a motorcycle accident in 1977 left him severely disabled with paraplegia. "I started taking driving lessons as soon as I could because I wanted as much mobility and independence as possible."

He passed his test within a month of leaving hospital and has since driven all over the country with the DDMC. "I bought a Honda Civic and loved it so much I drove 1,000 miles within the first month."

Fascinated by the history of motor racing, he found a job at the Beaulieu motor museum. It was here that he first got interested in disabled driving competitions.

"The museum used to have a disabled drivers' day every year and I used to nip out during my tea break to have a go at some of the manoeuvrability tests they organised. The experience stood me in good stead for the RAC competition."

Shaun now drives an Opel Manta GTE, which gives him a lot more space and horsepower than the Honda.

"The car is excellent for disabled people," he said. "It's easy to get in and out of and I can store my folded wheelchair on the car roof."

Shaun was very impressed by the ability of his competitors as, for example, they swerved their cars round bollards and held them steady during the speed control tests. He hopes the contest proves that disabled drivers are as skillful as their able-bodied peers. "Your ability behind the wheel is far more important than any disability you may have."

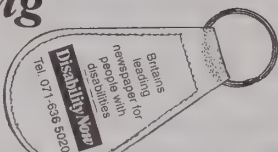
His passion for cars is only equalled by his love of travelling and for his "holiday of a lifetime" he's planning to visit America, Australia or the Far East.

Tim Russell

News story, page 5

Disability Now

The campaigning newspaper for people with all kinds of disabilities



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Disability Now is a non profit making publication. It is sent free to disabled people on low income if they let us know.

* Multiple copies 2 copies £24, 3 copies £36, 4 copies £48, 5 copies £60, 6 copies £72, 10-50 copies £100, 51-100 copies £125. One year (12 issues) only.

Welcome to "agony aunt" Ann

DN welcomes writer and broadcaster Ann Darnbrough as our new "agony aunt". She is one of the most well-known and well-informed people in the disability field.

With her partner, Derek Kinrade, she has produced directories for disabled and older people (*Directory for Disabled People*, 6th edition, Woodhead-Faulkner, £19.99 is just out), directories on equipment and sexual matters, and RADAR's *Motoring and Mobility for Disabled People*.

Ten years ago she founded the National Information Forum to improve the flow of information to disabled people. She set up the disability unit at AHRTAG, a charity which makes information about appropriate health resources available in developing countries, and is now a co-director. She has also worked for voluntary agencies such as the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and on programmes such as *Link* and *Does He Take Sugar*.

Ann had TB of the spine at three, and spent a lot of her childhood in hospital. Just as she faced losing her second kidney at 18 (with no dialysis available), a cure came.

Her disability is now hidden. "But it means I am constantly saying 'I can't do this' - like walking round a supermarket or standing for long at a conference. There seem to be fewer and fewer seats in shops. I wonder how many others have noticed that!"

There's a place for us

Relationships (8): Architect Andrew Walker was gay before he was disabled. After facing rejection and disappointment, he has come to value his own uniqueness

Strange isn't it how those people who try to sell you things over the phone always assume that one is both able-bodied and heterosexual?

I remember when I broke my spine whilst surveying a roof, a friend took care of my cat, Janet. His office colleagues, overhearing part of our telephone conversation, thought that I had jumped off a roof because my wife had left me and he was looking after my daughter...Janet.

I had not known my friend long. The cat was used as a quirky vehicle to cement our friendship and cover up the horror of wondering if I would even be able to manage a wheelchair.

Whimsically she became "Dame Janet Walker", an occasionally used pen-name, putting people right on matters disabled which I, through politeness, had hesitated to do. It was a way of compensating for the narrowness of vision of the straight, undisabled world; and whatever one did one could not be seen upsetting the comfortable way things were.

Whilst much has changed in the last decade, we continue to live in repressive times. It is still extremely hard to be both disabled and gay. The disability restricts enough. The sexual orientation is not accepted among many able-bodied people, let alone in an area where the very idea of sex is considered somewhat ridiculous.

The gay community likes to adore the perfect physique, whatever that is, so here too men with disabilities are not accepted.

Readers of this article who are disabled and gay are practically invisible because society - and the charities - hate the idea of people having

something else to which they cannot relate.

Much more effort is needed from our relevant charity and from homosexual groups like the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, which has no support group to help us. Why, for example, are practically all gay bars inaccessible to wheelchairs? Why is there no access information in brochures advertising holidays for gay people? Why do organisations fighting for gay rights never mention disabled gays? Why do TV programmes ignore us?

I know what a difficult issue it is. When I had my accident I had had a very close

"Neither of us had realised how much real inner strength we possessed. It was as though we were conquering the world."

relationship for almost 20 years. We did not live together - homosexual relationships do not necessarily ape heterosexual ones - but we stayed with one another frequently, spent holidays together, went to the theatre, concerts, lectures - the whole social round. Most days we would speak on the phone.

My accident was a complete disaster to my friend and he retreated into his work. It took him eight years to admit he had not been able to accept my disability. There had been no one to support and counsel him.

Gradually some sort of friendship is reforming, but how I would have loved him to have been there to help; how much I ached month after month longing for a visit.

My mother too could not cope with suddenly having a crippled son and took two years to visit. However, she did admit that my father, who I had not seen for 26 years, had been repeatedly trying to reach me and my sister, and this led to a wonderful reunion - and a new family.

Friends and neighbours were very strong. A friend who had his flat up for sale went to live in my house and he was the one who looked after the cat. Jon was amazingly supportive.

The hospital authorities said my house - an 1860s converted laundry in King's Cross - was "very romantic" but could not be made suitable for a wheelchair user.

Instead of worrying about the disability, the catheters, the infections, the debts, we just concentrated on making the place work. And it does - a crazy house on four different levels with the bath in a bedroom.

I used to be allowed home from hospital for weekends. Ridiculously steep ramps were created which entailed Jon charging up with the wheelchair to reach rooms I had been trying to imagine. I wheeled about touching all the delightful, reassuring bits of furniture.

He had to learn to move me when I lay in bed as instructed by the Sister: "Shoulder, buttocks, turn!" Every four hours.

Neither of us had realised how much real inner strength we possessed. It was as though we were conquering the world. Terrible moments of despair and tears, and then achievement amid much hysterical laughter.

Jon and a former gay employer who also came to my



Gay Pride on the march in London, 29 June

KEVIN WEAVER

assistance made me take a pride in myself again - even when I saw old friends cross the road rather than have an embarrassing conversation.

Once I could cope alone and had learned to drive a car, Jon took a flat nearby in Soho.

Now, like many others, he has been overcome by Aids and I would like to be able to help him. He, who forced me to face so many difficult things and who brought me pink champagne in the bath, cannot even be visited because his flat is inaccessible. We did manage a cup of coffee in the street together. Not very private.

In May this year I attended

the European Conference for Disabled Gays and Lesbians in Holland, organised and run by disabled people. It was a most liberating experience being one of sixty people with different disabilities celebrating our own uniqueness, aware of the special insight we have added to our lives by our disability.

For the gay community to reject us because of our disability is its loss; for other people with disabilities to reject us because of our sexuality is their loss too.

Campaign for Homosexual Equality, PO Box 342, London WC1X 0DU, tel: 071-933 3912

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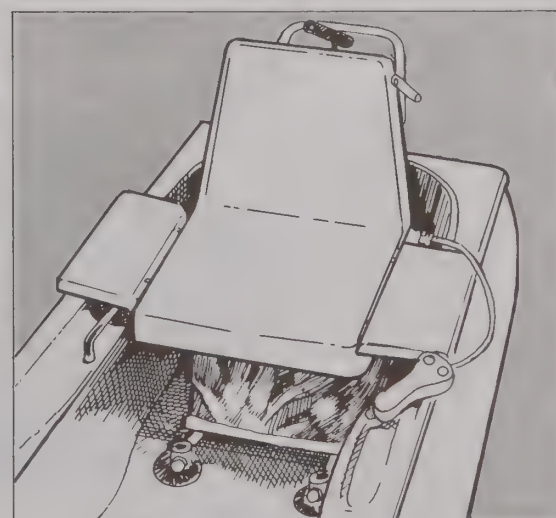
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INFO

A booklet about tuberous sclerosis which can cause facial rashes, learning difficulties and epilepsy is free from Janet Medcalf, TS Association, Little Barnsley Farm, Catshill, Bromsgrove, Worcs B61 0NQ, tel: (0527) 71898.

The Kirklees Disability Guide gives information on everything from concessionary travel to wigs. It is free to disabled

people living in Kirklees. Available from the Disability Access Point, Zetland Street, Huddersfield HD1 2RA, tel: (0484) 453000.

A set of three booklets - *AIDS and people with learning difficulties* is now available (illustrated right). The set costs £3.80 (inc p&p). Cheques made payable to BIMH should be sent to BIMH, Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 3PP.

Greenford Information and



Advice Centre is now open at Greenford Library on Oldfield

Lane South, Greenford, London UB6 9LG, tel: 081-575 8700. The office is open to the public and staff also deal with telephone and written enquiries.

The Southampton Spastics Association runs a **Family Help Unit** which provides respite care for families of children with disabilities. Family Help Unit, Rose Road Centre, Rose Road, Southampton SO2 1AE, tel: (0703) 228323.

Holidays and Courses For

Disabled People is an independent guide which is free to disabled people or their organisations. For details contact: Countrywide Publications, 8 Bretton Green Village, Rightwell, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DY, tel: (0733) 334433.

Skill, the National Bureau for Students with Disabilities has launched *Notes and Quotes*. A free newsletter for its members. Membership is £7 a year for students. For details tel: 071-274 0565.

The British Computer Society has a disability programme (see logo below). It produces a quarterly journal, runs a helpline and organises workshops and conferences. Further



information from Tom Mangan, City University, Dept CCS, Walsley Building, 214 St John Street, London EC1V 2PA.

A booklet on services for disabled people in Leicestershire has been translated into Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Gujarati and Bengali. It is free from Leicester City Council's Research and Information Unit, tel: (0533) 526089.

Arthritis Care has produced a set of **drugs sheets**. Each sheet explains what the drug is and how it works. Contact Ann Silvester, Arthritis Care, 5 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7ER, tel: 071-235 0902.

Disabled people in Ealing may be able to get **help with home adaptations** from Ealing Council. With the approval of an occupational therapist the council can advise on what work is necessary and whether you can get a grant or loan. Contact the Adaptations Team, tel: 081-758 5503.

MOVES



The British Epilepsy Association has appointed **Roger Symes** (left), who has epilepsy, as its new vice-chairman. Eric Sinclair is the new chairman. Stephen Powell is now director of The Anastasia Society (formerly the Anastasia Trust for Deaf People). **Tony Bannard-Smith** is the new appeals director at Winged Fellowship and **Tony Barnden** is now operations director. **Nigel Smith** is the new chief executive at Community Transport.

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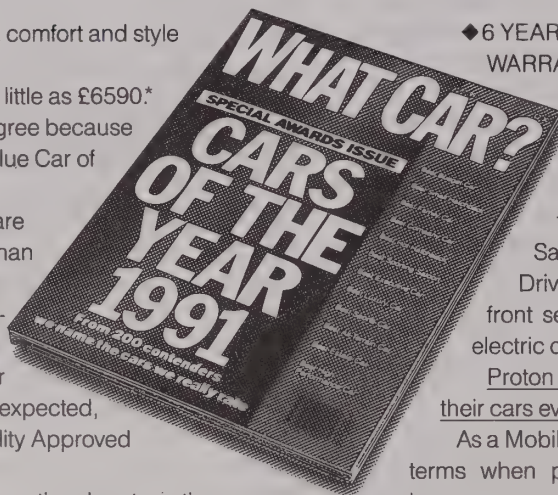
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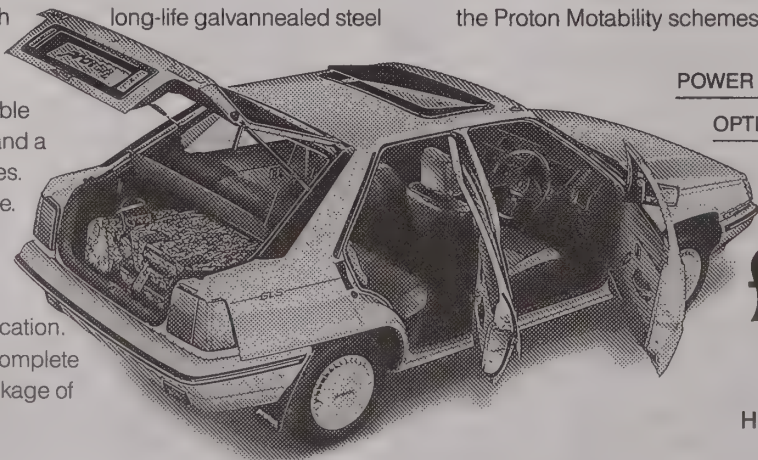
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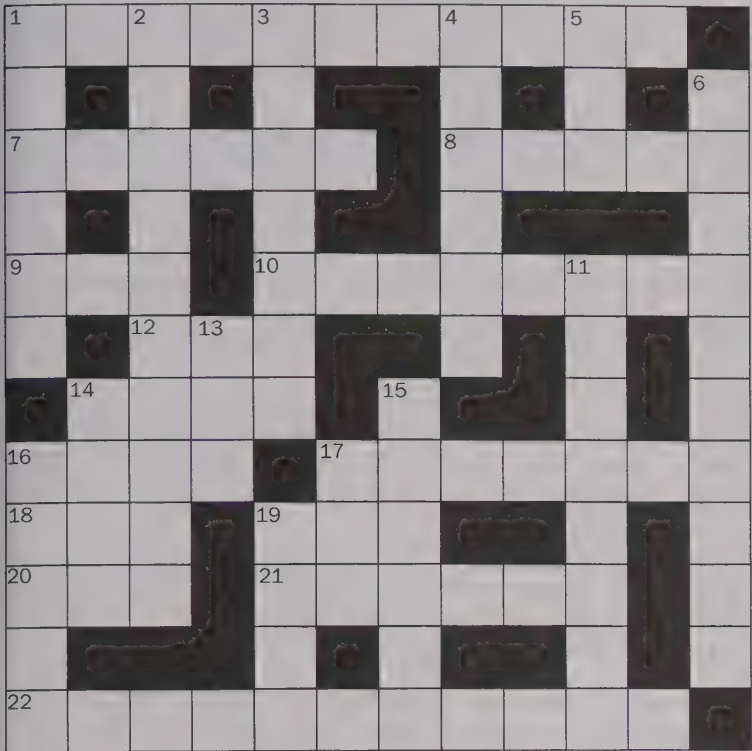
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DN's crossword

Answers page 27

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- 1 Duke of —, President of The Spastics Society (11)
- 7 Place of work (6)
- 8 Like a king or queen (5)
- 9 Zodiac sign (3)
- 10 Uncertain or debatable (8)
- 12 Sebastian —, runner (3)
- 14 Large avenue (4)
- 16 Friend (4)
- 17 Stop something (7)
- 18 — track mind (3)
- 19 Made of mud or meat (3)
- 20 — Zeppelin (3)
- 21 Burning (2,4)
- 22 Coward (11)

DOWN

- 1 Vague or soft (6)
- 2 Died through lack of oxygen (10)
- 3 Jackson or Heseltine? (7)
- 4 Grow quickly (6)
- 5 — and spoon race (3)
- 6 Depressed fly? (10)
- 11 Flower that rings? (8)
- 13 Bullfighting cry (3)
- 14 A horse or a lion has one (4)
- 15 Slang for purpose-built flat (6)
- 16 Girl's name (5)
- 17 — prick (3)
- 19 Type of mint or car (4)

...NEWS QUIZ ..NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ...

Answers page 26

- 1 Which bank collapsed in spectacular fashion?
- 2 Which Conservative party policy was attacked by Labour as propaganda?
- 3 Which superpower applied to join the International Monetary Fund?
- 4 Who won the World Golf

- championships?
- 5 Why did Terry Wogan fly to Cannes?
- 6 Which club did Aston Villa footballer David Platt move to?
- 7 Why did over 100 disabled people demonstrate outside the Department of Health in London in July?

- 8 According to the French newspaper *Liberation*, which European head of state is related to the Queen?
- 9 Which film broke the rules by featuring two women travelling to America in a car?
- 10 Who launched a free benefits enquiry line?

I see soggy sights on the sea shore

Sidmouth is a long way from Southend or Margate. You get there through narrow roads that wind between high, flower-filled banks. The approach into the town is parkland and residential homes. Then come polite, pebble-dashed houses, tennis courts, a bowling green, and people sitting in deckchairs, on patios and on wooden balconies. Orange badge holders have a large parking lot, almost full, on the sea front.

Eugene unfolds the wheelchair and we set off along the promenade in the fresh sea air. There are many other wheelchairs besides mine, conveying their occupants between the tearooms and the distant cluster of picturesque fishing craft that slumber high and dry at the mouth of the eponymous Sid. Most of these occupants are ageing and well

wrapped up against the early June sunshine, the fixed wheels and balloon tyres of their wheelchairs supporting their role as invalids.

It could be my wheelchair, or Eugene, or even my shirt that's disturbing them. Then I see that one of their number has broken ranks and is stripping off with much abandon, helped by the deckchair attendant. The quilted windsheater is already on the ground. Together they pull and tug at buttons and zips until he finally whisks away the last woolly vest to reveal a great lump of craggy old flesh clad in a faded, bulging one-piece swimsuit. Shock horror!

Without hesitation the deckchair attendant scoops her up into his arms and totters down the steps and across the short stretch of pebbles to dump her in the foam-frothed

shingle at the sea-edge. Freezing wavelets wash around her as she wallows like a stranded whale. Is it therapy, a miracle cure, madness? Many of her former colleagues have already turned their backs.

Suddenly she is caught by the surge of a larger wave and rolled over helplessly. Another still larger wave sucks her down and she disappears completely into the tumbling surf.

What seems an age goes by. Incredibly I see her grey head break the surface yards out. It bobs, almost mockingly, in the swell and then she's away, arms ploughing into the waves, legs trailing sweetly behind her, cutting through the water like a dolphin as she heads out to sea. Wow!

"That's what I call bottle!" I say to the deckchair attendant.

"Yers", he replies simply.
Stephen Hunt

Win a £5 prize

Create-a-caption



ROLAND LEON

Birmingham Institute for Conductive Education pupil Jamie Apperley met dancer Sue Lucas of the Birmingham Royal Ballet in July.

But what else was going on? Tell us

what they're saying by 12 September, address page 28, to win the £5.

PS If you haven't had a go at creating a caption yet why not try this month?

And if you have any good ideas for puzzles or competitions on the Fun and Games page, please let us know.

Caption winner

The £5 prize for August goes to Mrs Patricia Braithwaite of Aylesbury. BT's Beattie is saying: "Going to France? Please change Maurice's jumper for me. He's listening to us."



Is this a closed book?

Access to the Underground

A guide to help people with disabilities to travel by London Underground

London Regional Transport
11 Broadwick Street, London W1P 3BU
Travel Information 011 311 1334
Unit for Disabled Passengers 011 311 3400

Our handbook, "Access to the Underground", has been completely revised to include all new developments on the Underground and also the Docklands Light Railway. Using good clear print, it comprehensively details what to expect at every Underground and Docklands Light Railway station. How many steps, escalators or lifts, location of entrances and opening times. It also shows where and when accompanied passengers in wheelchairs can travel and gives many other useful tips.

"Access to the Underground" is on sale, price 70p, at the London Transport Travel Information Centres at King's Cross, Euston, Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus, Victoria and Heathrow Central, or by post (price £1) from:

The Unit for Disabled Passengers,
London Regional Transport,
55 Broadway,
London SW1H 0BD.

Hopefully you'll find the system is less of a closed book than you think!

DN9/91

CHECKOUT

It's official, exercise is good for you. The Royal College of Physicians is encouraging people with all kinds of disabilities to take more exercise. If you have any worries, or feel you need specialist advice, consult your doctor first.

Pedal power can be clean, green and fun. The Supa Byke from TFH is an easy-to-ride children's tricycle. The low gear ratio means that people with weak or badly co-ordinated leg muscles can pedal with minimum effort. £250-£300 (ex VAT and p&p). If legs cannot do the pedalling try the Supa Hand Propel also from TFH. A hand propelled trike again with a low gear ratio, the seat comes with a safety harness and removable side arms. It is good for children with spinal injuries or spina bifida. £325 (ex VAT and p&p). Tel: (0299) 827820.

Twin cycles, 2 bikes joined together, are ideal for giving people their first experience of

Suitable for over fives (see below). Tel: (0290) 24840 after 6pm. These bikes are ideal for visually impaired people, those with CP or any disabled person

children or adults who have limited strength for sitting up. £49.00 (ex VAT and p&p) for the chair and the ropes.

If quoits is your game, Not-



tingham Rehab have brightly coloured rubber quoits which can be used indoors or out.

Good for concentration and arm exercises. Available in blue, red, yellow and green. £0.89 each (ex VAT and p&p). Tel: (0602) 452345.

Swimming is another form of exercise that can be enjoyed at all levels. For people who need a bit of extra support in the water Hi-Comfort Hydrotherapy Aids from Nottingham Rehab could be just the thing. A pack of two resistance rings will provide variable levels of buoyancy and is great for arm and leg exercises in the water. £12.95 (ex VAT and p&p). Telephone as above.

who has a degree of balance but problems with walking. For a real family outing how about investing in the Family Truck from Rompa. Two front seats and two rear bench seats with space for four. £1,550 (ex VAT, inc. p&p). Telephone as above.

If the thought of cycling does not appeal why not swing into action with Portasport from TFH. An adjustable-height swingball game which converts to a netball ring (see left). Great for people who use wheelchairs. £39.90 (inc VAT and p&p). Or what about having a go on the Large Swing Chair, also from TFH. It has a high back support and adjustable straps for larger



adult" cycling. The Side by Side Cycle from Rompa is for people 10 years and older. £850 (ex VAT, inc. p&p). Tel: (0246) 211777. A new bike from Andrew Howie will be on the market at Christmas, estimated price £900. The new design will incorporate fixed or manoeuvrable handle bars and a variety of seating positions all with back support if necessary.

RAISE, LOWER AND RECLINE AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON.

- Chair operates at touch of button.
- Sturdy mechanism gently lifts and lowers.
- Extending footrest for full support.



For more information, either FREEPHONE or return completed coupon to: Electric Mobility Euro Ltd, FREEPOST, Sea King Road, Lynx Trading Estate, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2YS.

0800 252614

Please arrange: ☐ Free Demonstration ☐ Colour Brochure

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TEL: _____ DMC0991

ReHab NetWork

The journal for those involved in vocational rehabilitation.

Are you interested in more information about ReHab NetWork?

Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

☐ I would like a single issue of ReHab NetWork, and enclose a cheque for £2.50

☐ I would like to take out an annual subscription to ReHab NetWork and enclose a cheque for £9.50

☐ Please send me/my organisation an invoice for £.....

Annual subscription rate (UK) £9.50 including postage.

Single issues £2.50 each

Overseas: add £2.70 postage for Europe and £6.00 for other areas

Please make cheques payable to 'City University' and send to The Rehabilitation Resource Centre, Dept. of Systems Science, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V OHB.

WHAT'S ON

City and Guilds Starting Photography Course, begins September at Community Focus, an accessible darkroom and studio, in Hendon, London. Contact Maria Bartha, tel: 081-346 9789.

Minibus and Accessible Transport Exhibition. 6-7 September at Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Free. More details from Community Transport Association, Highbank, Halton Street, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 2NY, tel: 061-351 1475.

Putting Ability First, an employment and training seminar for disabled people. 13 September at Temple Row Centre, Keighley, West Yorks. £20-£30. Contact Keith Bell, Keighley Disabled People's Council, tel: (0535) 606700.

Real Jobs for Real Money, a conference. 17 September at Kensington Town Hall, London. Details from: Rachel Scott, Conference Officer, RADAR, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

Exhibition of Aids and Equipment 17-18 September at the Disabled Living Centre, Cardiff. Contact Mrs C Ellis, DLC, Rookwood Hospital, Llandaff, Cardiff, tel: (0222) 566281 ext 3751.

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Annual Congress. 19-20 September at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Free. Contact Jane Morrison, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, tel: 071-242 1941.

Scottish Mobility Roadshow. 20-22 September at Royal Highland Exhibition Hall, Edinburgh Exhibition & Trade Centre, Ingliston. More details from Disability Scotland, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG, tel: 031-229 8632.

The Fragile X Society Conference. 28 September in Birmingham. £10. For application forms contact: The Fragile X Society, 53 Wincheslea Lane, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 4LG.

Writing for the Screen, a course on Wednesday evenings, starting 2 October at Macbeth Street Community Education Centre, London W6. £3-£17. Priority will be given to disabled people. Details from Heather Davis, HAFAD 1st Chance Project, 87 Masbro Road, W14 OLR, tel: 071-603 7481.

Retirement and Disadvantage, a national conference. 9-11 October in Manchester. £305.50. More details from Tony Chiva at the Pre-Retirement Association, tel: (0483) 39323.

Sexuality and Disability, a seminar. 12-17 October at Groesbeek, Near Nijmegen, Netherlands. £100. Contact Mobility International, 228 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JX, tel: 071-403 5688. Closing date for applications 12 September.

HEADWAY NATIONAL HEAD INJURIES ASSOCIATION LTD

in conjunction with

TRAINING AND CARING SERVICES

on behalf of

BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION AND INFORMATION NETWORK (B.R.A.I.N.)

Present a SEMINAR

"BRAIN INJURY AFTER-CARE THE NEED FOR CHANGE"

Fortes Hotel, Nottingham - 24 October 1991

A seminar for medical and paramedical professionals, social workers and voluntary Agencies involved with people with head injuries, and their families and carers.

Speakers to include: The Baroness Hooper
(Under Secretary of State for Health (Lords))

COST, inclusive of Conference Fee, coffee, lunch and tea: £45.

For further details and Application Form, contact:
The Administrator, Headway National Head
Injuries Association Ltd, 7 King Edward Court,
King Edward Street, NOTTINGHAM, NG1 1EW.
Tel: (0602) 240800.

SERVICES

DATES FOR THE DISABLED - A BETTER LIFE -
36 Park Grove, Edgware,
Middx. HA8 7SJ
Tel. 081-958 1095
081-958 9657



*For people with disabilities and caring,
understanding able bodied persons
Ladies should not be shy of applying!*

All enquiries to: **HANDIDATE**
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB
Telephone: (0473) 226950

International Introductions



The dating service with the PERSONAL touch
LONELY????

There's no need to be lonely any more, we at

International Introductions

are here to help you find that special partner, in life. Let us help you to stop that routine & loneliness and give you someone to look forward to...

- * Australian styled Dating Agency with 11 years experience
- * Disabled Welcome. 7 days a week - 24 hour day personal service
- * A totally personal service; with no computers
- * Strictly confidential service
- * Compatible partners assured
- * An efficient friendly office

Why not call into our office and have a coffee and let us explain the many more advantages by joining us at:

International Introductions

'YOUR HAPPINESS IS OUR BUSINESS'

13 BARK STREET EAST, (Off Upper Bridge St), Bolton,
BL1 2BQ or please phone us on: (0204) 387396 or
396289 - NOT an answering machine.

Low Fees
Lifetime
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EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition for the Disabled
DISABILITY & MOBILITY PROMOTIONS
Presents the **NORTH EASTERN NATIONAL EXHIBITION**
to be held at
NORTHUMBRIA CENTRE
on Friday & Saturday 10th,
11th April 1992

Exhibitors who wish to stand at the above exhibition please apply before December 1st 1991. The show is situated between Sunderland and Newcastle and advertising will be of a very high profile throughout the North East, i.e. tv and radio, national and local press. Parking for 1,500 cars. An exhibition not to be missed - the first national one of its kind in the area. Book early as demand will be heavy. Write or phone Dave Peacock, Disability & Mobility Promotions, 38 Lawrence Close, Higham, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S75 1PE. Tel: 0226 386677 or 0831 260948.

You can now renew your *Disability Now* subscription by Access or Visa over the phone. Call Gayle Mooney or Karen King on 071-383 4575.

HOLIDAYS

North Wales. Two, 3 bedroom holiday cottages are now available for all year rental. Full wheelchair access. All facilities to enable your holiday to be comfortable e.g. bed blocks, disabled toilet/shower etc. We offer pony rides, riding for the disabled and trap rides; we can build a holiday around your requirements. Special subsidised rate for the Winter.

Please write to Mr Barry Field, Beudygwyn Farm, Carreglefn, Cemaes Bay, Gwynedd, LL68 0RL; or 'phone (0407) 711433.

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife. Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios to rent or buy in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

LAKE DISTRICT, KESWICK.

Newly opened and fully refurbished, **PORTLAND HOUSE** is a fine Edwardian home offering spacious accommodation excellent food and warm welcome. We will ensure your most enjoyable holiday.

LEVEL ACCESS ROOM FULLY EN-SUITE.

TV etc. Private parking, perfect location for discovering this beautiful countryside (town centre 400 yards).

B&B £15.50 PP. With dinner £20 PP.

Tel: **Beverley Brown (07687) 74230.**

Isle of Anglesey. Luxury FULLY wheelchair accessible holiday bungalows. Superb quality Grade 5 accommodation with 3 large bedrooms and Wheel-in Shower-room, sleeping up to 6 people. Stunning country views all around and only minutes from beautiful beaches. TRULY wheelchair accessible with showerchairs, monkeypoles, bedblocks etc free of charge for your problem free holiday. For our 1992 brochure: Hen Ysgol Holiday Homes, Rhoscolyn, Isle of Anglesey, LL65 2RQ, or phone 0407 741593. Don't delay 1991 was fully booked (some Autumn weeks vacant).

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

Costa Blanca - Spain

Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 25133.

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

SUNNY TENERIFE

Fully Accessible Mar y Sol

"Brilliant" says BBC TV
Holiday Apartments - and Timeshare
Brochure: Lynne James, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

LUXURY FULLY CONVERTED family home available for holiday lets on a bed and breakfast basis. Sleeps 5-6. Housekeeper resident and available for cover. 5 minutes from M25, 30 minutes from Central London. Tel: (0708) 720676.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA for your holiday of a lifetime. Luxurious adapted bungalow. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sleeps up to 6. Overlooking golf course. For the independent disabled traveller. 10 minutes from airport. 20 minutes from Disney. Owner is paraplegic. For availability tel: Sue Fisher 061-792 3029.

If you would like *Disability Now* on tape, or know anyone else who would, contact Gayle Mooney or Karen King on 071-383 4575.

The *DN* tape urgently needs funding. Can you help? If so, please contact Mary Wilkinson, tel: 071-636 5020.

WE ARE NOT AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AUTHORITY

Head of Equalities Unit
Up to £33,000 p.a.

But then, who is?

And at least we're trying to get there.

We've come a long way. Already in place, there are:

- Special two-way meetings with all the disadvantaged groups.
- Equality objectives to make sure we employ more people from these groups.
- Far better equal opportunities training for all our employees.
- A disability policy which has won the 'Fit for Work' Award.

We know that there is still much, much more to be done. In this job, you will be the one to do it.

Your challenge will be to manage the new Equalities Unit. You will need to work closely with all the departments of a modern and forward-looking County Council; and to ensure that equality of opportunity becomes — and remains — a mainstream issue.

This is a priority task. You will have the full backing of Members, the Chief Executive and Chief Officers.

Your track record must exceed ours in tangible achievements in bringing about equality. Also, you must have:

- Experience of top-level decision-making.
- Detailed knowledge of relevant legislation.
- An understanding of institutional discrimination.
- Good communication and inter-personal skills.

Needless to say, we welcome applications from women, African Caribbean, Asian and other ethnic minorities; and all suitably qualified/skilled/experienced applicants with a disability will be guaranteed an interview.

The benefits include: a salary reflecting the importance we attach to this post; car lease/loan; generous relocation; and the kind of job satisfaction which you are already seeking.

This will be the most demanding task of your career. If you are ready for it, please write to: County Personnel Services, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP for an application form. Or call us on (0602) 823450 (24 hour ansaphone).

Closing date 27th September, 1991. Please quote reference 475.



Nottinghamshire County Council

The County Council welcomes applications from all, irrespective of gender, marital status, disability, race, age or sexual orientation.

Assistant Manager

Salary £10,500-£12,000 (inclusive of shift allowance)
(temporary accommodation may be available in appropriate cases)

Applications are invited for the above post at the Mike Heaffey Centre situated in beautiful green belt grounds.

This unique centre is designed and built as a valuable shared resource for both disabled and local able bodied people. The centre comprises of a Sports Hall, Fitness Studio, Craft and Computer Workshops and a Licensed Bar.

The above post will prove extremely challenging and rewarding and the successful candidate will have every opportunity to display his/her initiative.

The applicant must be energetic with a will to succeed, possess good communication skills, flair and creativity, with at least two years experience in a supervisory role within a leisure facility and ideally hold a recognised leisure qualification.

Coaching qualifications and administrative skills would be an advantage.

Application by CV to: The Centre Manager, The Mike Heaffey Centre, RNOH, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LP. For a job description or an informal discussion, please contact Peter Sharkey on 081-954 5759.

HANDICAPPED ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND
ASSOCIATION LTD

ASSISTANT PLAYWORKER

Salary Scale £11,436.



HAPA currently has a vacancy for a full-time female Assistant Playworker, on its Hayward Adventure Playground, situated in Market Road Gardens, Islington.

The worker will be expected to encourage adventurous, creative and imaginative play; enable children to obtain the full benefit of the facilities provided; and to participate in developing and maintaining the playground.

We are looking for someone with experience of working with children, preferably with those with disabilities and special needs and /or in the field of play.

For application forms please contact HAPA at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, London SW6 6EA. Closing date for applications is 27th September.

Leisure
Development
Officer

£17,820 - £19,290 inc



We are committed to providing a comprehensive leisure programme for all sectors of the community. In order to ensure that people with disabilities have access to our services, we are seeking to recruit a Leisure Development Officer.

You will work closely with Section Managers - other Development Officers, namely Sports, Parks and Arts and local disabled groups. You will promote and develop the full range of recreational and leisure opportunities for disabled people from all sections of the community, and raise expectations of what can be achieved. You will also organise training on disability issues for Leisure Services staff.

You will need to have at least one year's experience of providing direct services for people with a disability (either paid or unpaid).

We offer: • Flexitime • The opportunity to job share • An attractive relocation package of up to £9,500

Please quote ref: LS 231

Application forms and further details are available from:
The Personnel Section, London Borough of Sutton, Leisure Services Department, The Old Court House, Throwley Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4AF. Tel: 081-770 4615 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing Date: 27 September 1991

We are working towards becoming an Equal Opportunities employer and as such we welcome applications from all sections of the community.

WOKING SHOPMOBILITY
CENTRE MANAGER

£14,000 p.a.

WHAT IS 'SHOPMOBILITY'?

It is a registered charity which provides wheelchairs and powered scooters to help people who have limited mobility, to shop and use facilities within Woking Town Centre.

Your office will be located in a purpose built unit within Woking Town Centre's new shopping development.

DO YOU HAVE:

- a caring attitude and relate well to people
- an ability to co-ordinate, administer and have innovative ideas for fundraising
- an ability to promote the service
- team leadership skills and an ability to work with volunteers

WE NEED:

- a full time Centre Manager for the new Shopmobility Centre due to open in April 1992
- you to take up your post in November 1991
- you to work flexible hours including weekends

CLOSING DATE: 27 September 1991
PROPOSED INTERVIEW DATE: 11 October 1991

FOR JOB DESCRIPTION AND
APPLICATION FORM CONTACT -
Personnel Section,
Woking Borough Council,
Civic Offices, Woking, Surrey.
Tel: Woking (0483) 755855 x3023



TO LET

ACTON/EALING, W3

Fully adapted and furnished large room in a modern hostel, suitable for single disabled female (17-22 years old). Close to local transport and shops. Amenities shared with 2 other females. Washing machine, parking facilities.

£31 per week inclusive.

St. Christopher's Fellowship
071-370 1083/2522

WANTED

BUNGALOW or ground floor flat for disabled student at Birmingham Polytechnic from October 1991. Box No. C3.

CLOSOMAT or similar WC fitting with wash and dry facility. Seller to arrange to disconnect, buyer will arrange collection. Tel: (0286) 871147.

Did you know that
Disability Now is a non-profit making newspaper and welcomes donations?
If you can help write to
DN, address on page 28.

Chief Executive's

DISABILITY UNIT (2 POSTS)

For too long now disabled people have been denied justice and equality within our society. Attitudes, environmental conditions and institutional discrimination are the "disabling" factors in the lives of disabled people, not their "physical" and/or "mental" impairments. The Council is determined to end discriminatory practices in all areas and believes that change will be achieved only when those who experience the discrimination are fully involved in directing that change.

To this end we are creating a central Disability Unit and recruiting specialist Disability Officers to work in close partnership with the community.

COMMUNITY LIAISON WORKER
(BLACK & ETHNIC MINORITIES)

£17,820 - £19,290 p.a. inc.

(pay award pending)

(Plus Casual Car User Allowance)

We are seeking a disabled person to help strengthen links between the Council and community groups in Waltham Forest. You will be providing advice, information and support to disability groups, and working with other community groups to assist them in involving disabled people in all their activities. You will need to make officers and Councillors aware of the concerns and aspirations of disabled people, and you will specialise in supporting Black & Ethnic Minority groups and individuals and their representative organisations.

Some experience of community development/outreach work is essential, and you will need an indepth knowledge of issues affecting Black & Ethnic Minority disabled people and how the voluntary sector operates since you will be responsible for establishing the means of full consultation between the Council and all disability organisations locally.

Good communication skills and occasional attendance at evening meetings are essential; and knowledge of a local community language and/or British Sign Language would be an advantage.

People from black & ethnic minorities are under-represented in this area and we would particularly welcome their applications. This post is advertised in accordance with Section 38(1)(b) of the R.R. Act 1976.

Closing date: 14.10.91.

Ref: H1355/DN

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND
RESEARCH WORKER

£19,290 - £20,910 p.a. inc.

(pay award pending)

(plus casual car user allowance)

We also require a disabled person with paid or unpaid work experience in Local Government or the voluntary sector in a multi-racial environment. You will need a full understanding of the issues faced by disabled people from all sectors of the community, and you will be responsible for research into the needs and aspirations of the disabled people as users of the Council's services.



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

RESEARCH • COUNSELLING • CARE

The Muscular Dystrophy Group is seeking a second Information Officer at it's Headquarters to provide an information and telephone counselling service for people who have M.D. and their families. This service is also used by a wide range of professionals working directly with people who have neuromuscular conditions.

We are seeking someone with experience of working with disabled people. Previous information experience and counselling skills would be an advantage.

Applications welcomed from disabled people. Offices presently being made wheelchair accessible.

For further details and an application form please apply to: Lyn Walker, Muscular Dystrophy Group, 35 Macaulay Road, Clapham, London SW4 0QP.

For an informal chat please ring: Anne Dredge 071 720 8055

Closing date for applications
Monday 30th September 1991.



INFORMATION
OFFICER

SALARY £16,000
PER ANNUM INCLUSIVE

Good communication and report writing skills are essential since you will have to make recommendations on new initiatives and policies to officers and Council Members. You will need to monitor the effectiveness of new policies and analyse results.

Some attendance at evening meetings will be required.

For previous two posts only Minicom users may telephone 081-527 5544 ext 4522, Monday - Friday, 9.30 am - 5 pm.

Closing date: 14.10.91.

Ref: H1356/DN

For an application form and further details for the previous 2 posts only apply to The Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF. Tel: 081-531 8899 (24 hour answering service).

Education Department

DISABILITY OFFICER

£17,013 - £18,270 p.a. inc.

(pay award pending)

We need a disabled person who can advise on disability issues in Education and formulate policies.

You will be responsible for:

- consulting disabled people, parents and carers and their representative organisations within Waltham Forest.
- co-ordinating the approach of the Department on Disability issues.
- advising on policy and practice in the placement of disabled children and adults.

You will need experience of:

- developing and implementing strategies to meet the needs of disabled people.
- advising and reviewing integration policies.
- working with key agencies and community groups.

You must have an understanding of the issues faced by Black & Ethnic Minority disabled people, disabled women and disabled people from all other disadvantaged groups.

Closing date: 14.10.91.

Ref: G1357/DN

For an application form and further details for the above post only apply to The Education Personnel Unit, Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ. Tel: 081-527 5544 ext 5351 Monday to Friday 9 am - 5 pm.

All posts are available for Job Share

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

FIND-A-FRIEND

HAPPILY MARRIED LADY, mid 50s. Bristol area. Arthritic disabled, house-bound but not paraplegic. Would like a daytime friend (pref. female) with own transport for trips out to local shops etc. Share expenses. Box No. 369.

GOOD LOOKING, lonely 24 year old man, with spina bifida and hydro-

There is a short waiting list for Find-a-Friend ads. Do not worry if your ad is not in straight away, it will probably appear next month.

cephalus, seeks young, attractive female (24-30), preferably blond, for written correspondence. Any area. My hobbies are photography, wheelchair basketball, listening to music and voluntary work. I am a non-smoker but I like the odd visit to the pub. Please reply, I don't intend to stay unattached for another 24 years. Box No. 370.

MAN, 35 with cp but can walk ok, has own house and good career, is also considerate, seeks friendship with kind, genuine lady in Surrey/Hants/Berks area. Box No. 371.

17 YEAR OLD male, disabled with

cerebral palsy after an accident seven years ago would like to write to a girl, 16-17. Interests are music, videos, computers and animals. Box No 372.

LADY 36, married, young at heart, lives in Birmingham. Has had one foot amputated and leg is painful. Would love to write to or meet other amputees, disabled or able-bodied persons to help me enjoy life again. Box No. 373.

QUIET 54 year old Lancashire lady, young at heart. I do not have much social

For Find A Friend ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

life as I am caring for my disabled son. I would like to meet a pleasant gentleman with a good sense of humour. Possibly a driver with own home and secure financially. Box No. 374.

DISABLED BULGARIAN WOMAN aged 50, former English student. Hobbies: dogs, literature, politics, pop music, housework and driving. I live in a nursing home and would love to get letters so I can use my English. Box No. 375.

To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 28.

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International
2. The Citizens' Charter
3. The USSR
4. Ian Baker-Finch
5. To interview singer Madonna
6. Italian club Bavi
7. To protest against the Government's scrapping of parts of the 1986 Disabled Persons' Act
8. François Mitterand
9. Thelma and Louise
10. The Department of Social Security.

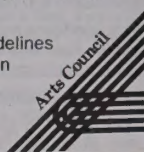
COLLABORATIONS

NEW COLLABORATIONS FUND

A national scheme for innovative inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations between artists from different artform areas working in equal partnership to create a synthesis or merging of artistic practices. Available to professional artists, companies, producers, galleries and publishers or any of these working in collaboration. Applications are welcome from artists whose work crosses artform boundaries, culturally diverse artists and from those involved with innovative work by/with people with disabilities.

Application deadline 1st November 1991. Further information and guidelines are available from: Lois Keidan, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter St, London SW1P 3NQ.

The Arts Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.



Social Services

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT WORKER

(Physical and Sensory Disabilities)

£17,013 - £18,270 p.a. inc.

We intend to develop our area team services for Asian people with disabilities, to encourage people to apply and provide them with the help they need. We wish to recruit an Asian person with a disability who has:

- ability to promote the needs and wishes of Asian people with disabilities, particularly women.
- ability to communicate in one Asian language.
- experience of working with Social Services and voluntary groups.
- ability to negotiate with Service Managers and Team Leaders.

Responsible to the Principal Officer, Services for People with Disabilities, you will be required to develop an action plan and report regularly to relevant service groups in the department. This post is advertised under Section 5(2)(d) of the Race Relations Act 1976 in view of the personal service which is to be provided to Asian people. In view of the nature of the work this post is also confined to people with disabilities only and is advertised under the Disabled Persons Act 1944.

Closing date: 30.9.91.

Ref: P1322/DN.

► For an application form and further details apply to The Director of Social Services, Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ. Tel: 081-539 3089. (24 hour answering service). Job details are also available on tape.

This post is available for Job Share.

Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

City of Aberdeen

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE YOUR ABILITY

The City of Aberdeen District Council are committed to improving job opportunities for people with disabilities. We therefore welcome more applications from disabled persons who want a chance to demonstrate their abilities.

To help ensure that you know what's on offer we can regularly send you a copy of our weekly vacancy bulletin. Just complete the coupon below and send it to:-

The Personnel Manager, City of Aberdeen District Council, St. Nicholas House, Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB9 1AY or telephone 0224 276276 Ext. 2105

I would like to receive details of the Council's vacancies.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

ASIAN PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ALLIANCE

CO-ORDINATOR

'Respite' Care for Asian people with disabilities

Salary up to £18,423 (inc.)



APDA is managed and run by Asian disabled people themselves and is one of the most innovative organisation addressing the needs of disabled Asians.

We need a dedicated person with a dynamic flair to initiate changes, challenge inequalities and pioneer work to co-ordinate, develop and deliver 'Respite' services to Asian disabled people and their Carers/Families who are experiencing major health problems and family breakdowns due to lack of professional support.

You should be able to communicate in at least one Asian language, preferably Hindustani (Hindi/Urdu mixed) or Gujarati and should have personal knowledge of the cultures of the Asian community and an understanding of the needs of Asian disabled people. The work involves substantial outreach work with Asian disabled people, their families and carers. Section 5 (2) (d) of the RRA applies.

Experience in a health or social care setting is helpful, equally valuable is a demonstrable awareness of the multiple disadvantages experienced by Asian disabled people.

Applications from disabled people are particularly encouraged and positively welcomed.

For further details and an application form, please contact: APDA, Ground floor, Willesden Hospital, Harlesden Road, London NW10 3RY. Tel: 081-459 5793.

CLOSING DATE: 20th SEPTEMBER 1991

INTERVIEWS BETWEEN 30th SEPTEMBER - 4th OCTOBER 1991.

PARKSIDE HEALTH AUTHORITY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES WILLESDEN COMMUNITY UNIT

DISABLED PEOPLES INDEPENDENT
LIVING TEAM/WHEELCHAIR SERVICES

ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY

A & C Grade 3/4

£9,132 - £12,518 pa inc (depending on experience)

We are looking for a full time Secretary/Administrator who has a blend of skills and experience, to provide secretarial and administrative support to two developing services for disabled people living within Brent, North West and North Kensington.

The successful applicant will be based at Willesden Hospital (wheelchair accessible) and will be expected to play an important role in helping to ensure smooth and effective running of the two services.

Experience of operating a PC is desirable, as is a proven ability to organise, prioritise and communicate at all levels.

Applications from Disabled people are especially welcomed.

For informal enquiries, please contact:

Anne Cohen (Team Coordinator) on 081 451 8258.

For further details and an application form please contact:
Jacqui Gentles on 081 451 8393.

Part-time or Job Share welcomed

Closing date: Monday 23rd September 1991

Interviews: Tuesday 1st October 1991

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

GRANTS

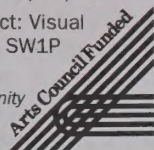
ARTS COUNCIL VISUAL ARTS GRANTS

1 April 1992 - 31 March 1993

	Deadline
Visual Arts Magazines	23/09/91
Photography Publishing Grants	27/09/91
New Collaborations Fund	01/11/91
Exhibitions and Events	02/12/91
Live Art Commissions	02/12/91
Visual Arts Publications	02/12/91
National Conferences	02/12/91
Policy Research and Pilot Projects	02/12/91
Development Grants for Visual Arts Touring Exhibitions	13/04/92

For further information and a copy of Visual Arts Grants contact: Visual Arts Department, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ, tel 071 333 0100, fax 071 973 6590

The Arts Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.
Information available on cassette and in braille



Housing Development Worker - £10,310 (for 26 hour week)

GAD wish to appoint a Housing Development Worker. The post is funded for 26 hours per week on NJC Scale 6.

Applicants should have experience in the housing needs of disabled people. Broad job description, includes policy formulation, liaison Housing Association, and individual advice and advocacy.

Job description and application from: GAD - Greenwich Association of Disabled People's Centre for Independent Living, Christchurch Forum, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich, SE10 9EQ.
Closing date for receipt of completed applications 27th September 1991.

GETAWAY GIRLS

A girls' and young women's outdoor education project requires an experienced but unqualified youth worker. She will be supported through a diploma in youth and community work whilst working for the project.

The project seeks to empower, through outdoor activities, those groups of girls and young women who have little opportunity in society.

This includes Black, Asian and working class young women and disabled young women. We would particularly welcome applications from women of these groups.

This is a four year full time post under JNC terms and conditions.

Salary £8,817 - £9,684 under review.

Section 7(2) (e) of the Sex Discrimination Act applies.

Application form and further details from, Sue Dare, South Pudsey Education Training Centre, Kent Rd, Leeds LS28 9DS

Closing date 27.9.91.

Avon Coalition of Disabled People

requires a disabled person for the post of:

CO-ORDINATOR/CIL PROJECT WORKER

to further the aims of this developing organisation.

Commitment to disability equality principles essential.

Salary: £14,160

For details and an application form ring Penny Germon (0272) 412063 or write to ACODP, Easton Community Centre, Kilburn St, Easton, Bristol BS5 6AW.

Closing date: September 30th 1991

ACODP is striving to become an Equal Opportunities Employer.

art link

Art Link provides and develops arts opportunities and activities for people with disabilities.

Project Worker (Independent Work) 23 hours per week. £13,614 p.a. pro rata

We are seeking an experienced, committed arts worker to act as part of a team, with a specific brief to develop work with independent groups/people with disabilities. This post is open to people with disabilities only.

Please contact Art Link for further details of this post.

Administrative Assistant 20 hours per week. £9,128 p.a. pro rata

We are seeking an experienced individual to provide secretarial and general administrative support to the organisation.

Please apply with CV and referees to the Administrator.

Closing date for applications: 17 September 1991.

Art Link, The Garage Arts & Media Centre, 1 Hatherston Street, Walsall WS1 1YB. 0922 616566 (Minicom).

Details are also available on cassette and in large print.

Art Link has an active policy of Equal Opportunities and particularly welcomes applications from older people and people with disabilities.



Shape London, the arts development agency working with disabled people and other under-represented groups, has the following p/t vacancies:

DISABILITY ARTS WORKER in WALTHAM FOREST

3 days a week for 6 months

DISABILITY ARTS WORKER in HACKNEY

3 days a week, permanent post.

Both posts £14,631 pro rata

Based in the borough, each worker will support, encourage and develop arts policy and initiatives with and for local disabled people, in association with local arts and disability organisations and others. The Waltham Forest post is a new development, while the Hackney project is well established. Both posts will be based in accessible offices.

As we wish to recruit disabled persons to these posts, we are asking that **DISABLED PEOPLE ONLY SHOULD APPLY.**

For further details and application forms, write to: Shape London Recruitment, 1 Thorpe Close, London W10 5XL, indicating which post you are interested in. Closing date for returned forms Friday 20th September 1991.

Shape London is an Equal Opportunities employer



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please contact the Advertisement Manager, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362 Fax: 071-237 8019

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DOWN: 1. Vague or soft 2. Suffocated 3. Michael 4. Sprout 5. Egg 6. Bluebottle 11. Bluebell 13. Ole 14. Mane 15. Prefab 16. Molly 17. Pin 19. Polo

For subscription details, please see page 18.

DEADLINES FOR OCTOBER ISSUE

Booking by 13 September

Camera ready artwork/copy by 17 September

WALTHAM FOREST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE

CLERICAL ASSISTANT (Special Needs Section)

£4,041.42 - £4,217.48 p.a. inc.

18 hours per week (school term time only)

(Initial appointment for 1 year with continuation subject to funding available.)

We are looking for a person with a disability who can provide clerical assistance to the Head of the Special Needs Section. You should have the ability to work on your own initiative and to relate effectively to a wide range of people. Duties include typing, duplicating, banking fees and recording statistical information. A knowledge of sign language or Urdu would be useful as would experience in Adult Education Service administration. A commitment to the promotion of education services to people with disabilities is essential.

The post is based at Walthamstow Adult Education Centre, Greenleaf Road, E17. It should be noted that parts of the office could present access difficulties.

Closing date: 30/09/91

REF:G119/DN

For an application form/further details apply to:

The Recruitment Team, Personnel Unit, Education Department, Municipal Offices, High Road, Leyton, London E10 5QJ.

Tel: 081-527 5544 ext 5351.

Details also available on tape.



Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.



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House, 14 -16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL.

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Ealing

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



Viv Richards and Graham Gooch (left and right) give Kevin O'Donoghue, 10, and Emmanuel O'Hene, 6, wheelchairs courtesy of Cornhill Insurance PLC at the Oval in August. The appeal was organised by Whizz-kidz, the movement for non-mobile children.

Disabled citizens rule ok?

The Government has promised a better deal for disabled and elderly people in its Citizen's Charter, published in July.

Among the promises are:
*guaranteed waiting list times for operations such as hip replacements, with treatment to be given elsewhere - including at private hospitals - if the hospital cannot meet the target

*out patients departments must give people set appointments and not "block book"

*a Social Security Benefits Agency charter, to be published in the autumn. This will introduce "clear procedures" for handling customer enquiries and a customer service manager to act on complaints.

The Charter repeats existing

Government pledges, such as the right to an individual care plan, contained in the NHS and Community Care Act. But this is not due to be fully implemented till 1993.

Brian Lamb, head of The Spastics Society's campaigns department commented: "Most of the measures, though welcome, are simply repeating existing commitments. Without allocating extra resources it is difficult to see how services will be improved. If the Government is interested in disabled people's rights it should include anti-discrimination legislation in the Charter."

Vandals hit disability shop

Vandals caused £100,000 worth of damage in the Keep Able Centre in Brentford in July.

Special computer equipment for disabled people was also stolen from the Keep Able Foundation charity next door.

Manager Tina Stevens said: "Everything was slashed,

from adjustable beds to motorised wheelchairs, many of them beyond repair. Nothing of value escaped.

"Some of our customers were very shocked to see the damage. We cannot understand why anyone would do such a thing."

One Small Step appeal completes its last lap

The One Small Step appeal for £1.4m to build Britain's first "movement analysis" laboratory has reached its target. The new centre will open in Guy's Hospital in London in 1992.

The appeal, which began in 1989, ended with the Cadbury's Strollerthon in June. Over 12,000 people took part in a ten mile sponsored stroll through London, raising over £500,000 in pledges.

The Cadbury's Movement Analysis Laboratory will let

doctors see exactly how someone moves. This will enable them to plan corrective surgery more accurately and help physiotherapists devise exercises to improve muscle control.

Appeal organisers say 15,000 children with cp in the UK could benefit. Children who have spina bifida or muscular dystrophy, and some adults who have movement disabilities or who are amputees, may also be among the 250 people the lab will assess each year.

Good idea

IDEAS + is a new employment agency set up to help disabled people in Harlow find jobs.

A registered charity with company status, it will operate like any other high street job agency by charging a fee to employers whose vacancies it fills. It has received initial funding from Harlow District Council, BP, IDV UK Ltd, General Portfolio and Blue Arrow Personnel Services, but aims to become independent.

IDEAS + will offer disabled people counselling, career planning, help with job-hunting, and information on everything from benefits to getting further qualifications.

As well as help with filling vacancies, employers can get information and advice on employing disabled people and continuing support once they have taken someone on.

Anne Kelso, tel: (0279) 434355.



Ken Gardener, of Gibside Chapel, and Alison Duddy of the Gateshead Council for Disability with the National Trust's first "Stairmatic" climbing device for disabled visitors.

Disability Now

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Editor Mary Wilkinson

Assistant Editor

Alison Rowat

Reporter

Rebecca Reynolds

Editorial/Production Assistant

Catherine Frame

Secretary

Tracy Scollin

Subscriptions

Manager Gayle Mooney

Assistant Karen King

Tel: 071-383 4575

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2. **HANDIDATE** has members of every educational standard:

Learning difficulties, no qualifications, C.S.E., G.C.S.E., O and A levels, Diploma and Degrees.

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